

PARKING PROBLEMS



TREVOR GREER/O'COLLEGIAN

Taylor Foust, a human development and family sciences freshman, exits her van. Foust said she has had issues finding parking.

Handicap parking checks needed

By ALEX STROHM
Staff Reporter

Parking on campus has been a consistent issue for students, but for those with disabilities, being able to park in handicap spaces is vital.

Taylor Foust, a human development and family sciences freshman, has struggled to find a place to park near her residence hall. Even more, Foust is a bilateral amputee, which requires her to walk on her knees.

A few months ago, Foust was trying to find a parking space late at night. However, she was forced to park in the overflow parking because no handicap spaces were available.

"When I went to park, there were two vehicles that were not authorized to park in a handicap spot," Foust said. "So, I had to walk on my knees from the overflow lot."

In addition, Foust said that

incidents of not being able to find handicap spaces are reoccurring, which is exhausting.

"Some people have the handicap placard, but I've seen them out and about before and they don't seem to have any troubles," Foust said. "I've heard of people being able to take their parents' cars that have a handicap placard and use the car."

Steve Spradling, the director for Parking and Transit Services, has received many requests and complaints in regards to handicap parking.

"We ask anyone who sees someone who might be falsifying a permit or using one that doesn't belong to them to let us know and we will look into it," Spradling said.

Parking and Transit Services has the ability to check the permit against the tag number and ticket the vehicle if the paperwork doesn't match with the individual.

"The permit has to belong

to the person that the vehicle is registered to," Spradling said. "The person who is handicapped must be in the vehicle when it is parked in a space."

In any case of possible abuse with handicap parking, Spradling said Parking and Transit Services will investigate. However, not all students who are handicapped will appear to be.

"I've learned to recognize that you don't know what someone's disability might be," Spradling said. "All we can do is enforce that they have the appropriate credentials."

There are 395 handicap spaces on campus and 187 approved permits, according to Parking and Transit Services. Spradling said that Parking and Transit Services takes handicap issues seriously and enforces regulations.

"We get requests that there aren't enough handicap spaces in a certain area and can add spaces," Spradling said.

This academic year, 275 citations have been written for parking unlawfully in a handicap space, according to a recent report from Parking and Transit Services. Matt Brown, the director for university housing, spoke with Taylor about her situation and has tried to solve the issue.

"Housing and Residential Life can't address the issue of whether or not the students

who are using those spaces are legitimately handicapped," Brown said. "I told Taylor we would work with Parking Services to get a third handicap parking space by her residence hall."

Recently, a third handicap space has been placed at Taylor's residence hall.

"I'm confident stating that we have been able to successfully meet any accommodation we have been asked to make for students," Brown said.

However, Foust said students need to be made aware of the struggle that handicapped students are faced with.

"I want to stress that nobody wants to walk from overflow, but people need to respect those who are disabled and need those spots," Foust said. "It's not their fault that they need them."

Brown said he sympathizes with Taylor's situation and that it's unfortunate that people could be using handicap spaces that they don't need.

"If you meet Taylor, it's obvious that she needs a handicap parking space outside her building," Brown said. "I was hoping that knowing her challenge and struggle might raise awareness and might move people to do the right thing."

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Wellness Department to host a free lunch

Group will educate on managing good body weight

WELLNESS LUNCHEON

WHERE:
Seretean Wellness Center lecture hall

WHEN:
Wednesday from 12-12:50 p.m.

NOTE:
The luncheon will feature guest speaker Abby Stover

By ALEX KRUZE
Staff Reporter

It is not always easy to live a healthy lifestyle.

However, Oklahoma State University's Department of Wellness can help.

Faculty, staff and wellness members who registered before Friday's deadline can enjoy a free lunch on Wednesday and learn how to properly manage one's body weight.

Mary Talley, a wellness program manager, said Wellness Wednesday is a program the department has offered for a long time.

Each month's luncheon topic varies, and March's topic is weight management.

"(Weight management) is a topic that's important to a lot of people," Talley said. "There's a lot of misconception about what we should or shouldn't eat. I thought we should bring Abby (Stover) in to provide some basic information."

Stover, a registered dietitian and part-time employee of the wellness department and OSU alumna, will guest speak at the luncheon.

The Oklahoma Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics named her the Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year in 2012.

Stover will try to inspire guests to improve their personal health through weight management.

Talley said the luncheon topics are geared more toward faculty and staff, but students are welcome to attend.

The weight management luncheon will take place at the Seretean Wellness Center lecture hall from noon-12:50 p.m.

Talley said the department anticipates serving lunch, an Asian chicken salad or a Greek salad (upon request), to about 120 people.

"The food is always heart-healthy," Talley said. "We always have a vegetarian option, we always have a gluten free option. When we cook it in-house, we always want to do something to get people to try something new. Ordinarily, so the healthy food can also be tasty."

Although the free registration was on Friday, no-shows will be billed \$6 to their bursar account.

For more information, call 405-744-WELL (9355) or email wellness@okstate.edu.

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JACKIE DOBSON/O'COLLEGIAN

Nathan Calavan takes notes during a meeting.

IT employee to speak at SGA meeting today

By CHRISTINE WALSH
SGA Reporter

SGA president, the vice president and other executives will present information at tonight's meeting also.

Darlene Hightower, the Chief Information Officer for Information Technology at Oklahoma State University, will speak at tonight's Student Government Association meeting.

Hightower will speak on the revision of the key IT support system that is taking place.

In other business, the SGA Senate will consider granting registered status to organizations including the Preoccupation Therapy Student Association and the American Association of Airport Executives. A bill providing co-sponsorship to the Hispanic Club consists of Senate's unfinished business.

For new business, legislation concerning the support of the Collegiate Housing Information Act will be determined by the committee as a whole.

Executive reports from the

Following executive reports will be reports from senate committee chairs.

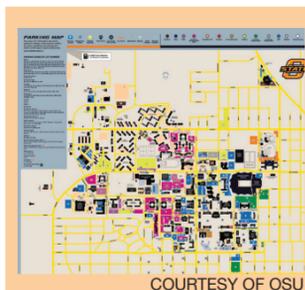
Committees included are Budget, Internal Affairs, Public Affairs Committee and University.

Liaisons from OSU Tulsa, OSU Institute of Technology, OSU Oklahoma City, GPS-GA and FRC and representatives from Board of Regent for A&M Colleges, Higher Education and Faculty Council will also report on current information.

Concluding the meeting with further reports will be the Senate Vice Chairman Dalton Downing and Senate Chairman Stephen Rogers.

The SGA Senate will meet today at 7 p.m. in Case Study 2 of the Student Union.

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A guide detailing campus parking locations:

http://www.parking.okstate.edu/map_parking.aspx

COURTESY OF OSU

OSU professor, administrator win seats

By KURTIS HAIR
City Council Reporter

Gina Noble beat out Councilor Philip Pina for seat 2 in the Stillwater City Council, and incumbent Joe Weaver was re-elected to seat 1 in a landslide vote last night.

As of 8:54 p.m., Noble had received 962 votes to Pina's 557, and Weaver had raked in 1,193 to opponent Micah LeFebvre's 228, according to ok.gov.

The website states that these results are unofficial

and will be certified no earlier than 5 p.m. on Friday. Councilor-elect Noble is a clinical assistant professor in Oklahoma State University's School of Media and Strategic Communications.

She said bringing a balance between economic development and quality of life initiatives is important to her.

"I've always wanted to serve Stillwater," Noble said.

Noble's campaign website lists her reasons for running, including a desire to promote growth, protect citizens' property values, improve city

infrastructure and improve communication between local government and citizens.

Weaver was elected to the Stillwater City Council in 2010, and Weaver said he knows how to work with the public of Stillwater.

"I have learned a lot in the past three years," Weaver said.

Weaver also serves as the vice president of administration and finance for OSU.

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NOBLE

Gina Noble: "I've always wanted to serve Stillwater."



WEAVER

Joe Weaver: "I have learned a lot in the past three years."



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