Garage opens, late and short on space

Behind schedule, Sixth Street Parking Garage opens with more than 400 fewer spaces than planned

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

Three weeks after the scheduled completion of its first phase, the new Sixth Street Parking Garage is open, but has far fewer spaces than were originally planned.

Originally slated to be completed by Aug. 1 and open Aug. 12, the first section of the garage opened yesterday with only 357 spaces instead of 750.

The spaces that opened were reserved for permit holders and not for hourly visitor parking. The elevators on the garage have also been delayed, effectively rendering disabled parking spaces above the first level unusable.

Carl Gajdorus II, Project Manager for the garage, attributes the delay to normal construction delays.

"In any construction project there are issues that arise," said Gajdorus II, also a Facilities Design and Construction senior architect.

"We are continuing to add (parking) spaces and by mid-Aug. it will be up to the 660-700 range," he said.

The $18.5 million, 16,000 square foot facility — which will also include a 16,700 square feet office building for Parking and Transportation Services, a plaza, CatTran shuttle stops and Sun Tran bus stops — is scheduled to be completed in February.

Eventually, a greenhouse will be built on top of the garage, covering it entirely.

The garage was to complete a second phase in April, but since it was scheduled to be completed Aug. 1, over three weeks before school started, and was expected to catch up when 24 hour work began, officials felt it would be ready.

Permit holders for the unfinished garage have been allowed to park in the Tyndall Garage and a shuttle has been provided for those who travel east on North Fourth Street to East Highland Avenue, then back to Tyndall Garage via North Lowell Street.

Wildcat Welcome helps out new and returning students

BY KRISTOPHER CALIBANO
Staff Writer

When most students move into the dorms they get help from their parents, friends and roommates — but some opt for help from top university administrators.

It’s called Wildcat Welcome Week, and the program, which is in its fourth year, kicked off Wednesday as university faculty, administrators and staff helped new students move into their residence halls.

The program is in full swing and offers students food, directions to class, entertainment, tours of campus and free shuttles to malls and grocery recreation stores, said Juliette Moore, director of campus events, the week event is primarily run by the University Activities Board and includes several events each day to help students find their way around campus and create an open and welcoming environment.

Today’s activities include a poster and van tour on the mall, a Child Care and Family Resources Open House and a planetarium show at the Flandrau Science Center. Also, volunteers will be in booths and golf carts around various parts of the campus to help with student’s needs.

REGENTS: BUDGET REQUEST FOR NEXT YEAR IS INFATED

UA administrators urged to agree on a more realistic request after last year’s cuts

BY JENNIE ROSE
Staff Writer

Thirty-five million dollars is too high a budget increase for UA to ask from the Arizona State Legislature for next year, the Arizona Board of Regents told university administrators at an Aug. 16 meeting.

Administrators are renegotiating a number of this week.

Regents are in favor of a more modest request — one that came via administrators — to reduce the $20.3 million UA lost last year between budget cuts and lower than expected state funding.

Today’s request is an increase of nearly 11 percent in the university’s state-allocated budget.

"I would rather be more realistic with the budget numbers than show more symbolic than practical," said board president Jack Jewett.

"I want to look foolish," he said. "I would rather be more realistic with the budget numbers than show more symbolic than practical."