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Parkland College

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The show was put on by Twin City Squared. Green Day’s “American Idiot” was performed at the Harold and Jean Miner Theatre at Parkland College from May 26-June 2.

Theft remains most prevalent crime on Parkland campus

Matt Moss

Theft continues to be a major threat in the lives of students and law enforcement alike as it is considered the number one crime on campuses nationwide. Concrete data presented by the Federal Bureau of Investigation shows theft as being the most prevalent crime at places of higher education for at least two decades, with the trend likely stretching much farther.

To this trend, Parkland is no exception.

“Tuition is the biggest crime problem at Parkland,” said William Colbrook, chief of Parkland’s police. Statistics gathered by Parkland’s police reports between 2012 and 2014, there were a total of 91 thefts on Parkland’s campus that were reported to Public Safety. Of these thefts, 29 had an item or items stolen that valued over $300 dollars. To give an idea of how the rate of reported thefts compares to other crimes, the second most prevalent crime at Parkland is drug law violations, with a total of 14 cases between 2012 and 2014. This is less than half the number of reported thefts on campus.

The 2015 Campus Safety Report, campus crime statistics released by Parkland in adherence with the Clery Act, paint a picture of this trend of theft continuing to hold its place as the number one crime at the home of the Cobras.

Not surprisingly, items left unattended are easy prey for thieves. Public Safety reports visitors to the campus may need to be more aware of where their items are and make sure to never leave them out of sight.

“There are a couple of common sense approaches and tips that need to be kept in mind at all times that can cut down on the number of thefts,” Colbrook said. “When going to class, ensure that your backpack is locked and secure. In addition to that, it is also crucial to make sure that you lock your dorms, rooms, and any other places you keep your belongings.”

According to reports going back to 2012, Parkland’s crime statistics show there was a total of six thefts in two years. Public Safety does not want to give the impression that Parkland is not a safe place to be, but rather states that like any public place it is not completely without crime.

“Parkland is a safe community but it is not crime-free,” Colbrook said.

For those interested in reading more about crime statistics at Parkland, the 2015 Campus Safety Report—as well as reports going back to 2010—are available online on Parkland’s campus, under the heading of “College Resources.”

Matt Laumann could be called a road warrior. Employee, but not in the way that one might think. While she does work full-time at Parkland, there is much more to her story. Laumann is the High School Outreach Coordinator for Parkland’s Assessment Center.

“My department is crucial to the enrollment process at Parkland,” she said. “We work tirelessly to limit novice students, making sure that each student takes the appropriate tests to place them into their desired classes.” In her role, Laumann works with area high school counselors and their respective dual credit students and seniors to complete the testing they need in order to get begun their college careers.

“Our students come first,” she said. Last month, Laumann, a University of Illinois graduate, has a dream. Lately, however, she has taken some steps that could lead her there, becoming her reality.

“I have recently accepted admittance to the Maryland Institute College of Art,” says Laumann. “So, this summer I’ll be moving to Baltimore to settle into graduate work. I will very soon be changing the dream of being a contributing member of east coast art scene to reality. Having earned her bachelor’s degree in fine and applied arts, Laumann initially began her graduate studies before coming to work at Parkland. She says that her time at Parkland has proven to be quite beneficial.

“Parkland has
New Parkland women's soccer coach named

Peter Floess  Staff Writer

Parkland women's soccer has a new captain at its helm. In May, Chris Jackson, who has served as the assistant Parkland women's soccer coach since 2015, became the head coach. Former head coach Josh Alford left to become assistant coach at the University of South Carolina–Aiken.

Jackson has been involved with the Cobras since 2011 after meeting Alford while coaching club soccer. Through Alford, Jackson became the assistant coach of the women's team in 2013.

Jackson is happy with how things have been so far so far in the season. “Last year we had a great season so this year I am looking forward to being able to improve on that and make an even deeper run into post season,” she said. “We have about 10 returning players and I'm confident that with the returners and the strong freshman class we have coming in that we will continue to grow.”

According to Jackson, McHatton, who is a second year midfielder, is “very excited to get the season started.”

“Players who are interested in walking on should contact me prior to that date so I can plan on their participation.” Jackson said. “Walk-on players are given three practices to prove themselves and will be expected to pass the team fitness test.”

Jackson meets regularly with captains Amanda Dalton and Michaela Ward to discuss goals for the team for this coming season. The Cobras have decided on so far this summer are to win the first game of their season, qualify for the national tournament, and allow the team’s sophomores transfer to a four-year college or to transfer to a four-year school and continue playing, if they choose.” Jackson said. “All of our players possess the quality to do so, so it comes down to getting them the exposure, letting those other coaches see them play.”

“Coach Alford is a very experienced and knowledgeable coach who has a strong legacy and I expect him to maintain and even improve on that, as well as several others who are students of soccer,” Jackson said. “All of these coaches see them play.”

“Players who are interested in trying out may be expected to pass the team fitness test.” Jackson said. “Walk-on players are given three practices to prove themselves and will be expected to pass the team fitness test.”

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McHatton, who is a second year midfielder, is “very excited to get the season started.”

“Last year we had a great season so this year I am looking forward to being able to improve on that and make an even deeper run into post season,” she said. “We had a lot of key players graduate leaving big shoes to fill, but I'm confident that with the returning players and the strong freshman class we have coming in that we will continue to grow.”

Rod Lovett, the director of Kansas City, Mo. on Aug. 15, where potential new players can prove their merit to the team’s top brass and possibly earn themselves a spot in the Cobras soccer.

“In August we will have 20 top-quality players—13 sophomores and seven incoming freshmen,” Jackson said. “Walk-on players are given three practices to prove themselves and will be expected to pass the team fitness test.”

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‘American Idiot’ performed in Parkland Theater

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