

Officials expect no gas shortage in Nebraska

By Allen Schaben
Staff Reporter

Nebraska should not experience a major gasoline supply deficit this summer, despite a prediction that such shortages will plague most of the nation, say both state officials and industry observers.

"I don't see anything that severe (for Nebraska)," said Larry Kinyon, a research specialist with the Nebraska Energy Office. "If they (gas stations) continue running into problems with the suppliers, they can always go somewhere else."

A report, issued by Buyers Up, a division of the advocacy group Public Citizen, predicted

that motorists will see a new round of gasoline price risings this summer and a supply squeeze that could lead to gas lines reminiscent of the 1970s.

The report predicted gasoline supplies to be the tightest since the energy crisis of the '70s, despite relatively abundant world oil supplies.

Beth Williams, Lincoln's AAA Cornhusker Motor Club office manager, said she doesn't anticipate a shortage.

Williams said gas demand rises in the summer. When there is a high demand, she said, there are high prices.

Nebraska has the second highest gasoline sales tax at 21.7 cents a gallon. The tax in-

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UNL to reserve parking stalls for students

By Jana Pedersen
Staff Reporter

Students who are tired of searching for late-night parking spots on the remote corners of campus may have another option next year.

The Parking Advisory Board has adopted a plan to have one lot of reserved 24-hour parking for students who wish to pay \$150 for the privilege.

The gated lot on the southwest corner of 17th and Vine streets will have some form of card access and offer 130 spaces. Students won't be assigned a specific stall, but only 130

permits will be issued for this lot.

A reserved space option also will be extended to faculty and staff members in various locations on both City and East Campuses for a \$240 fee.

Parking Advisory Board member Ray Coffey, UNL business manager of business and finance, said the idea to have reserved parking arose out of a new philosophical statement adopted by the board that basically means, "You ought to get what you pay for."

"The statement says that the Parking Advisory Committee believes that parking rates ought to relate to the quantity and quality of the service that people get," Coffey said.

People who want reserved parking should be able to get it if they are willing to pay the extra price, he said.

University Police Department Lt. John Burke agreed.

"It's really a step forward that we've needed for a long time," he said.

Installation of the necessary gates on the student lot shouldn't be difficult, Burke said, because preliminary wiring for a gate system was included

when the lot was constructed.

Plans are being discussed for using new student identification cards as the gate pass for the lot, he said.

Burke said students will receive a letter in their student packet detailing the application procedure for reserved parking.

If there are more responses than spots available, Burke said applicants will be chosen by lottery.

Response to the 225 available staff and faculty reserved parking spaces has been good, he said, and more spaces may need to be made available. If there continues to be a great response, he said, those applicants also may be chosen by lottery.

The addition of reserved parking is the beginning of a better parking system that may include more gated lots in the future, Burke said.

Coffey agreed and said a differentiated rate system by proximity and quality is being considered but won't be implemented for some time.

Until then, the money earned through reserved parking can be used for upgrading the system, he said.

Upgrading the system also means a \$10 increase for regular parking

permits, Coffey said.

Coffey said the increase will be used to cover the costs of parking lot maintenance.

Burke said the increase was needed to make improvements on several lots which need to be paved or need better lighting.

"With over 12,000 stalls... there are always improvements to be made," Burke said.

Coffey said maintenance costs last year amounted to \$65 for each stall. The difference between that amount and the \$40 charged for a parking permit came from meters and violation penalties, he said.

With the permit rate increased to \$50, meter and violation funds can be used for making improvements in parking facilities instead of just maintaining them, Coffey said.

Burke said there has not been a rate increase since 1983.

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