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8/21/11 Deadline

Stores now that students are back.

The lack of residents in Stillwater over the summer may be enjoyable to locals but local businesses prefer the busyness of the town.

Stores around Stillwater such as The Shoe Bank, where employees work on commission, prefer the crowds around town because the students bring the business.

Kendall Gibson, a junior at OSU and an employee at The Shoe Bank, said her commission has increased since the students started movie back in early August.

“Last week was rush week for sororities, so that brought a big crowd in,” Gibson said. “Daughters and their mothers were coming in getting things left and right for the busy week.”

Back to school shopping isn’t the only thing increases sales; the restaurants around Stillwater have also had an increase in customers the past couple of weeks. Isaac Foster, a junior at OSU has worked at Mexico Joe’s through the summer and has also noticed an increase in business.

“I noticed the amount of students that started showing back up,” Foster said. “I also saw the type of crowd change up, through the summer there were a lot more families out and about. Now it’s all college kids coming out with their friends for drinks.”

Gibson also said the types of sales she makes has differed since the college kids are back in town. She said now they’re selling a lot of Sperry Top Siders and TOMS for back to school for walking across campus.

Foster and Gibson both agree that the crowd around Stillwater is beneficial on their paycheck but find it just as annoying as everyone else when the traffic comes with the students.

“It definitely takes me longer to get to work now that the students are all getting back,” Gibson said. “I have to leave earlier for work than I did during the summer to get there on time and that’s frustrating.”