New program allows students to save paper without proof

By Star De La Cruz

Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Transportation unveiled a new technology program to allow offices to reduce paper usage. Initially, whether a driver has a car registered in Texas or not, the Driver Responsibility Verification Program, which goes into effect in January, will allow law enforcement officers to have access to insurance information on vehicles and drivers from their fingertips.

Julie S. Everett, spokesperson for the department, said the program, which received state legislation passed in 2007 that will begin working for the state on a corporate level.

“A lot of times what we do is check the insurance’s database, EverQuote, and see if there are discrepancies occurring within the database,” Everett said. “We match,“ Everett said.

According to Everett, all the Vehicle Identification Numbers must be verified for each vehicle every year. The department hopes the new program will save them time and money in the long run.

Currently, there are some databases in the small towns of Texas that are not as up to date as the Department of Transportation, which can cause problems if a law enforcement officer needs to check for the validity of an insurance.

The database is accessible to the officers who are trained up to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Insurance.

The program is currently being implemented in database systems similar to those already widely used in other states.

The Department of Insurance estimated 15 to 20 percent of all insurance policies are fraudulent.

“This is a big step for us to make sure it’s accurate because we don’t want any insurance fraud or anyone that doesn’t have insurance to go untracked,” Everett said.

The database needs to be accessible to the officers who need to access it.

Scott Everett, a Waco agent for Farmers Insurance said most of the work is done at the corporate level.

“We will receive verification information and just go through our local clients to make sure all the (Vehicle Identification Numbers) and policy members match,” Everett said.

Currently, there are some discrepancies occurring within the insurance databases. Everett said:

“A lot of times what we see is that there is no documentation that the driver is insured.”

Tropical storm threatens Texas coast with heavy rains, flooding

By Michael Graczyk

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tropical Storm Humberto formed off the Texas coast Wednesday and forecasters warned residents along a 270-mile stretch of the coastline extending into southwestern Louisiana to brace for heavy rain and possible flooding.

Tropical storm warnings were posted from Port O’Connor to Intracoastal City, La., with the center of Humberto predicted to push ashore overnight Wednesday—probably in the Freeport or Galveston area, south of Houston.

The storm was expected to track south and east of Houston, then move to the southeast into Louisiana through Thursday.

Chances were expected along and to the east of the storm track.

By late afternoon Wednesday, Humberto was packing nearly 50 mph winds about 50 miles south-southwest of Galveston, moving north to the east.

“The obviously isn’t an evacuation event or hurricane,” John Simpson, emergency coordinator for Galveston County, said. “It’s too close to be a problem, it’s going where it’s going to develop that much.”

“However, it looks to be a prolonged rain event and some pretty substantial tropical storm-force winds,” Simpson said.

Texas has had one of the wettest summers on record, with Houston soaked under the monsoon rain it’s had in a summer since 1944. Since the ground already saturated, flooding was likely.

Forecasters were anticipating 3 to 10 inches of rain with some spots possibly getting as much as 15 inches.

Tropical storms typically are significant rainmakers.

Last month, at least six deaths were blamed on Tropical Storm Ernesto, which dropped nearly a foot of rain in parts of San Antonio, Houston and the Texas Hill Country.

In 2001, slow-moving Tropical Storm Allison soaked Houston, dumping about 20 inches of tropical storm rainfall.

Some two dozen people died, winds of the city were paralyzed and damage was estimated at some $5 billion.

Beaumont County Sheriff Charles Harper said low-lying areas in his coastal county which included Freeport, could present problems for residents and motorists.

Jim Reid, a University of Texas at Austin research meteorologist who followed the storm, said:

“Be prepared for any kind of serious weather threat is what we ask our people, and that goes for Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas and others.”

Both believe they have done what they can and are continuing to do that.

In Austin, Gov. Rick Perry activated 500 public health and emergency workers with 200 soldiers.

Please see POWER, page 6

Mental health сумmits aim to alleviate ailments

By Anita Pera

Staff writer

Last year the Baylor Counseling Center helped 900 stu- dents, up from 610 the previous year.

“We know there’s been more demand,” said Dr. Jim Marsh, director of counseling services, as he spoke of the growing list of students who have attended the center.

College students now have a 50 to 50 chance of becoming depressed, Marsh said.

But the counseling center comes to students with its Student Mental Health Summer. The summits are to inform students of the signs of depression and other mental health issues.

The first summit was held Wednesday and another will be held Sept. 28 at the same time and place.

The counseling center sees students for many issues, such as anxiety, bipolar disorder, relationship and family problems, sexual and substance abuse and trauma.

The center increased their staff this year to include six psychologists, a counselor, four graduate assistant counselors, a psychologist and a intern.

With the heightened pressures of modern-day college students, it’s no mystery why more students are reporting depression.

“Students are in the thick of a pressure cooker,” said Marsh. He refers to the challenge of college students face with juggling classes, homework, jobs, extracurricular activities and a social life.

Marsh believes part of the problem lies with the current generation’s “strong drive to succeed.”

“With higher expectations comes more stress,” he said.

He cited the “Ivy League factor” as another dynamic in depression among students.

The Ivy League factor states that students attending Ivy League schools use university counseling services three times more than students at other universities.

Rigor academics and a high cost render a higher level of stress among mental health issues, said Marsh.

Several members of the Sigma Xi Fraternity attended the summer summit.

Please see HEALTH, page 6

BBoutout caused by line failure

By Star De La Cruz

Staff writer

A student was working on an important paper and didn’t save it by 2:34 p.m. Wednesday. More than likely this student gets pout upset within the next two minutes.

At 2:34 p.m. yesterday evening, Baylor building on the east side of I-35 from electrical provider Oncor.

Lori Fogleman, Baylor’s department of university relations, said, “We lost power because of a line failure that delivers electricity from by Baylor Oncor provider to the Baylor Electrical Sub-sta- tion.

The failure occurred on the north side of the Brenos Building and a tower above an area that was contained to Baylor campus.

Power was restored around 2 p.m. on Thursday when Oncor switched to another cable to feed into the Baylor sub- station.

“This was not a prob- lem on our end,” Fogleman said.

Fogleman said there were four reported incidents of people who were trapped in elevators during the power outage two in the McClure Student Life Center and two in the Baylor Airbus Building.

Power was restored in the McClure Student Life Center.

Baylor Police Chief Jim Donahue confirmed this and said Baylor Police rescued and saved those people who were inside the elevators.

Tommy Robinson, manager of operations, said he has two back up systems for a power outage crisis. This time it was the unrepairable power supplier, which is basically a bank of batteries that keeps the servers on for minutes assuming.

The other is the diesel generator, which by now is one of those humming things that just keep on humming as long as we have fuel.

Again, a new mechanism that allows us to keep the equipment with school, so it can last for a very long time,” Rob- inson said.

Dallas sophomore Natalie Fogleman who was in one of the small group speeches, said she was just a little upset for a little while until we got our cell phones and got online,” she said.

Houston sophomore Jennifer Hines, who was also “blew out our minds. Everybody was not something and no one knew what to do.

It’s ridiculous how some- thing like this can happen at Baylor, it interrupted everyone’s and their daily schedules.

Many students were decided to move their classes outside rather than not.

Please see POWER, page 6

By Star De La Cruz

Staff writer

The Associated Press

Two men fish from Flag Hotel fishing pier Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007, in Galveston, Texas, as Tropical Storm Humberto passes through the area and hits the shore.

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Please see STORM, page 6

Please see POWER, page 6
Choosing a career path: waking up to life's calling

In case that steaming cup of coffee did nothing to rouse you from a deep slumber, perhaps this message will:

Wake up!

For many students, the pressure to do their part in society, be it through research or service, can make you feel as if you must choose a career path right now. Yet, you need not. While life is full of decisions, the choice about your career path is yet another. The truth is, you may not even be interested in making that decision until years, or even a decade, from now. And this is perfectly fine. In fact, it may be the wisest decision you will ever make.

It may seem strange that you could be interested in a career you have never heard of before. But it is perfectly normal. Many people do not have a clear idea of what they want to do for a living until much later in life. This is because we are all constantly changing. We grow, we mature, and we learn new things every day. And as we learn new things, our interests and passions can change accordingly.

It is not uncommon for people to change their career paths multiple times throughout their lives. Sometimes, this is because they discover a new interest or passion. Other times, it is because they realize that their initial choice was not the best fit for them. And that is okay.

The important thing is to take your time. Do not feel pressured to make a decision that you may later regret. Instead, focus on the things that you enjoy and the things that you are good at. This will help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses, and to find a career path that is right for you.

In conclusion, do not rush into making a decision about your career path. Take your time, explore your options, and follow your heart. You never know where it might take you.
Milk prices gouge students pocketbooks

By Katherine Farlow

The Internet is saturated with videos and video on the Internet is the biggest thing that’s happened, according to Dr. Michael Korpi, communications professor and digital media director. Before the advent of the Internet, the only way to get a copy of a video was to buy it at the video store, or rent it to see,” Korpi said.

“More and more people are familiar with video on the Internet. We’re not seeing innovation for what the Internet can do,” Korpi said.

“Many local consumers are feeling the pressure. We have to.”

The effects may have consumers feeling the pressure. The U.S. Geological Survey in Washington warned Thursday’s quake had the potential to generate a destructive regional earthquake along with hundreds of miles of the epicenter it advised authorities to take immediate action to evacuate coastal areas.

On Wednesday, a severe earthquake shook Southeast Asia, collapsing buildings, killing at least five people and injuring dozens of others.

Korpi said the main thing he wants students to realize is where the market is going. “More and more people are familiar with video on the Internet. We’re not seeing innovation for what the Internet can do,” Korpi said.
Baseball opens fall practice season

By Austin Baer
Sports writer

Comeoffing of a season iscommon workplace and the SMU Mustangs, the University of Texas at Austin and the Iowa State Cyclones (26-32-1, 3-6) on Wednesday night at the Paul J. Myers Stadium in Elephantasis, Texas.

Despite a valiant effort put on by Baylor in their big 5-4 win, the conference opener, the Lady Bears were unable to trump lower Texas A&M nemesis in the third game of the series and is coming off a season in which he posted a 3.58 ERA in 11 starts and 15 appearances last season. His maturation filled out the Baylor bullpen with more of an attitude of ‘we’re going to work together,’ but instead I think we have had to work together. ‘I’m going to Texas,’ Breyfogle said.

Baylor finally fell behind it forcing Barnes to call a timeout. Barnes then decided to pull starting pitcher on a 3-2 count in the fifth inning against Iowa State with one out and runners on first and third.

State Relief Pitcher of the Year.

Texas Leaguer Relief Pitcher of the Year.

Coach Smith harps on us that those pre

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Iowa State’s Erin Boeve (7) goes up for a kill against Baylor’s Anna Breyfogle and Grace in the fourth game. (Baylor Lariat / Mark Rogers)

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“West defiantly stronger” on third album

By Hailey Shapero Contributor

For his third studio album, Graduation, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson explores a new, more sophisticated, mature sound, blending traditional rapper and producer Kanye West’s pop influence with Curtis’s slick bravado. The majority of the solo songs on the album stick to a distinctly hip-hop sound. There is some soft piano or violin that gets added in and gives a more hip sound. It’s slightly reminiscent of the orchestra/conductors Jeremy Renner called. Overall, the style of this album is great and the songs are highly entertaining, even if the lyrics are a little risqué.

Grade: B+

The two artists have been using the publicity from their rivalry to promote their new albums. West recently appeared together Sunday on The Late Show with David Letterman on the September issue of Rolling Stone. 50 Cent took the competition further by holding a solo show of Graduation outside Curtis, he would return to the music business. Though the true win hasn’t been announced yet, Graduation is already building Curtis on the album charts. If there’s one thing West knows how to do, it’s sell. He’s also do their part, helping 50 Cent a rare softer side.

The promotion of this album is a strategy in its own right. The 50 Cent vs Kanye West release date brought massive amounts of publicity to both artists. 50 Cent told Rolling Stone that he’ll retire if West sells more albums than he does.

“Well, then he’ll just get shot again and come back,” said Malcolm Jenkins Brit Bank. Curtis’s tip for the lyrics are highly entertaining, even if the lyrics are a little risqué.

Graduation has been a very successful album for Curtis. It has outsold his previous albums, including The Marshall Mathers LP, and has sold over one million copies in its first week.

The album features a variety of guest appearances, including Jay-Z, Dr. Dre, and Kanye West. Curtis’s collaborations have helped him to reach a wider audience and increase his popularity.

The album also includes a variety of styles, from hip-hop to R&B to pop. Curtis’s versatility has helped him to appeal to a wider range of listeners.

In conclusion, Graduation is a strong album that showcases Curtis’s talent and versatility as an artist. It is a must-listen for fans of the genre and for anyone looking for a great album to add to their music collection.
WASHINGTON — A day before President Bush’s vote address, Senate Democrats rejected a four-star general’s recommendation to keep some 130,000 U.S. forces in Iraq through next summer and sought legislation to end the war, as many Democrats want.

Bush had targeted Iraq’s training objectives, U.S. assets and lighting terror-

ists. Democrats, party officials told The Associated Press.

The goal is to attain enough Republicans to break the 60-vote requirement in the Senate needed to end a filibuster. Democrats have proved unable to do that since they took control of Congress eight months ago.

“I call on the Senate Republicans to see their way through this as they have with the president for the fourth time,” Senate Major- ity Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said in a news conference. “It’s time to change. It’s the president’s war. In this point it also appears clear it’s also the Senate Republican war.”

Democrats struggled to regain momentum in the war debate after two days of testi-

mony by Gen. David Petraeus, the top commander in Iraq, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Democrats said the proposal does not go far enough.

“It creates and provides an illusion of change and resolution as an effort to take the wind out of the sails of those who want to end change coming in Iraq,” said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Commit-

tee.

In a bold challenge to Petraeu-

s’ assessment, Reid said the “situation on the ground in Iraq has not changed at all.” He later acknowledged gains in Anbar province, “but it’s like the big balloon that you push on one side it comes right back the other way.”

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