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A&M searches for firm to carry staff insurance

By Todd Riemenschneider
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M University System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee heard reports Friday on the Tax Saver Plan and on bids for what company will carry the insurance for A&M staff and employees.

SEBAC also heard reports on the Tax Saver Plan implemented Jan. 1. The Tax Saver Plan is being implemented in two phases.

Phase one allows employees to pay their insurance premiums on a before-tax basis, instead of an after-tax basis, said Steve Hassel, associate director for the systems office of employee benefits.

Phase two deals with spending accounts and will be implemented Sept. 1, Hassel said.

A spending account allows employees the opportunity to select the amount of money taken out of their paychecks each pay period for unreimbursed health expenses and dependent daycare. This is also done on a before-tax basis.

Proposals have been sent out for bids in two phases. Phase one is a general services administration which is like a claims processing system.

A claims processing system is similar to what an insurance company does when it reimburses its clients.

The other phase is a communica-

tions phase. This plan will aid in letting employees know how the system works.

Proposals will be received through next Friday. The decision on the new insurance carrier should be made by the end of March, and then participating employees will be notified of the details, Hassel said.

The group also heard proposals about the status of bids from insurance carriers.

Larry Wilson, director of the systems office of employee benefits, said they are trying to narrow the number of insurance carriers to a smaller number.

"We hope to narrow the field to a more manageable number, perhaps six or seven companies," he said.

The goal of the committee is to have the new rates for the faculty and staff before summer.

Wilson said there will be new rates, but they will not automatically go up.

"Since we are in an inflationary time, they will probably go up, but we do not know how much," he said.

"We will be able to announce those new rates by the first part of May, before the faculty leaves for the summer," Wilson said.

Wilson also said the annual enrollment period will be June 6 through July 15. During this time faculty and staff will be able to review and change their plans if they wish.

Teen-ager recovers after abducted, beaten

FORT WORTH (AP) — A teenage girl kidnapped from a pizza parlor parking lot was severely beaten with stones and tree limbs during the nearly 24 hours she was missing, police say.

Ashley Dozier was in stable condition at Fort Worth Children's Hospital Sunday. She suffered multiple cuts, including scalp wounds and exposure. A 16-year-old youth was being held Sunday at a juvenile detention center in connection with the abduction.

The 13-year-old girl was discovered about 7 p.m. Saturday in a culvert in Fort Worth.

Ashley was in the parking lot of a Fort Worth pizza parlor with two friends Friday night.

The two boys, ages 12 and 13, told police a man pulled up and accused them of damaging his car. He then pushed them into his car and told them he was a plainclothes police officer and was taking them to the juvenile detention center, the boys said.

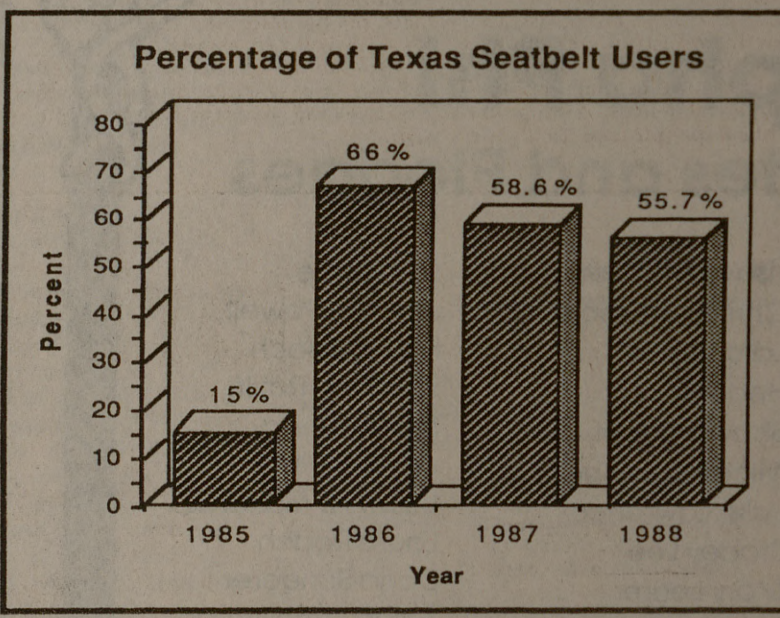
Texas seat belt usage drops

By Lisabeth Rabun
Reporter

A recent project conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute showed that seat belt use in Texas has declined each year since the mandatory shoulder restraint law went into effect in 1985, project director Katy Womack said.

"The survey recorded observations of 3,000 vehicles at 12 different intersections in each of the 18 cities studied throughout the state over a one-week period of time," Womack said.

Annual reports show that before the law went into effect in December 1985, the seat belt usage rate in Texas was 15 percent. In 1986, the rate increased to 66 percent. The following year the rate decreased to 58.6 percent and the 1988 report showed a 55.7 percent rate of usage.



"It's hard to tell if it will continue to decline or if it will level out," Womack said, "but a decrease was expected the first year after the law passed."

The decline is similar to what other states have experienced after passing seat belt laws, but comparatively, Texas remains above average, she said.

A report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration confirms the average use in the other states to be 45 percent, Womack said.

Texas had such a large increase the first year the law went into effect that it has easily remained above the national average, Womack stated.

"We seem to be using seat belts about 10 percent more than the rest of the states," she said.

The Human Factors Division of TTI was responsible for the survey. Womack said she uses A&M stu-

What's Up

- Monday**
- INTRAMURALS:** Entries open for badminton singles, innertube water polo, pool singles and volleyball triples in 159 Read. For registration information contact P.J. Miller at 845-7826.
 - AMA MARKETING SOCIETY:** will have a representative from Piedmont Airlines speak at 7 p.m. in 150 Blocker.
 - ACCOUNTING SOCIETY:** Electronic Data Systems will discuss hi-tech careers at 7 p.m. at the College Station Hilton.
 - AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** will have a short meeting about the Special Olympics at 7 p.m. in 267 G. Rollie White.
 - BRAZOS COUNTY RAPE CRISIS CENTER:** will have its 16th training class beginning tonight for volunteers to become phone or escort advocates or Friends of the Family advocates. For more information call Linda Castoria at 776-7273.
- Tuesday**
- FACULTY FRIENDS:** will present the Faculty Forum "The Mystery of Life's Origin" at noon in 110 Civil Engineering. Dr. Walter Bradley will speak.
 - AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METALS:** Steve Anderson will speak and officers will be elected at 7 p.m. in 105 B Zachry.
 - CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will have a concert by Jerry Goebel a Christian singer-guitarist, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rudder Auditorium.
 - PRE-MED/PRE-DENT SOCIETY:** Representatives from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas will speak at 5 p.m. in 203 Harrington.
 - DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** Electronic Data Systems will present information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.
 - POLITICAL SCIENCE 356:** Republican sheriff's candidates will debate at 4 p.m. in 207 Harrington.
 - PHYSICAL THERAPY CLUB:** A representative from the U.S. Army will speak at 7 p.m. in 164 Read.
 - NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN:** Representatives from the Dukakis and Gephardt campaigns will speak at 8:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder.
 - AMERICAN PRODUCTION AND INVENTORY CONTROL SOCIETY:** Pictures for the AggieLand will be taken at 6:40 p.m. in the Zachry lobby. Bobby Elkins of Arthur Anderson will then present "CIM is Finally Here."
 - BAPTIST STUDENT UNION:** will have a hula-hula fellowship with Mark Johnson, an A&M baseball coach, speaking at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Student Center.
 - AGGIES FOR JACK KEMP:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
 - AMERICAN AGRONOMY SOCIETY:** will meet at 7:15 p.m. in 103 Soil and Crop Sciences.
 - TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
 - NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
 - CEIPHED VARIABLE:** AggieCon workers will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 206 MSC.
 - AGGIE ALLEMANDERS:** will have square dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. and a club dance at 8:45 p.m. in the Pavilion.
 - WRITING OUTREACH:** will discuss "How to Write a Persuasive Essay" at 6:30 p.m. in 131 Blocker.
 - PHI ETA SIGMA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
 - TAU KAPPA ALPHA:** will have an information session for interested sophomores at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
 - SPANISH CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.
 - BRYAN HOMETOWN CLUB:** will discuss The Big Event at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
 - ALVIN HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet to collect dues and discuss upcoming events at 7 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.
 - SILVER TAPS:** There will be a Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.
 - PRE-LAW SOCIETY:** will discuss LSAT preparation at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
 - INTRAMURALS:** will have a sports club meeting at 7 p.m. in 167 Read. Table tennis doubles entries close.
 - WATER SKI TEAM:** will meet in Rudder Tower at 8:30 p.m.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Delta Air Lines goes to trial over crash

FORT WORTH (AP) — Delta Air Lines and federal attorneys go to court Tuesday over who is legally responsible in Delta's disastrous crash at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Federal Justice David O. Belew Jr. will determine whether the government must pay a part of \$91.2 million in claims that Delta's insurers have paid so far in connection with the 1985 crash.

Belew, in that decision, also will determine the extent of the airline's liability in the crash of Delta Flight 191 on Aug. 2, 1985, which killed 137 people and injured 25.

Justice Department attorney Kathlynn Fadely, who will represent the government in the trial, predicted that whatever Belew decides, the case will be appealed.

Flight 191, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Los Angeles with a stopover at Dallas-Fort Worth, crashed at 6:06 p.m. while attempting to land during a severe thunderstorm that developed during the last minutes of the plane's approach.

The airline claims that air traffic controllers and weather forecasters had evidence of a low-altitude thunderstorm in the landing path of the flight but failed to warn the jetliner's crew.

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