

PENALTIES

Continued from Page 1A

cense plate numbers and letters; prohibits the use of material or an apparatus that alters or obscures one-half or more of the state name; and prohibits using material that obscures the license plate number or plate color.

SB 153 makes it an offense for the accompanying licensed passenger of a driver with a learner's permit to sleep, be intoxicated or to engage in any activity that prevents the passenger from observing and responding to the actions of the driver of the vehicle.

SB 112 (effective April 27, 2007) protects the right to bear arms during a declared disaster or emergency by prohibiting law enforcement officers from confiscating firearms during such emergency periods.

HB 8, known as Jessica's Law, imposes a 25-year minimum sentence for sexually violent offenses against children under 14 years of age; eliminates eligibility for parole for certain sex offenders; makes a second conviction of a sexually violent offense against a child under 14 years of age a capital felony; mandates global positioning system (GPS) monitoring for offenders committed under the sexually violent predator statutes; extends the statute of limitations for sexually violent offenses against children under the age of 14 to 20 years past the victims' 18th birthday; and clarifies that harboring a sex offender in violation of registration is an offense punishable by up to a third degree felony.

SB 6 increases the penalty for sexually explicit online communication with a minor who is 14 to 16 years old from a state jail felony to a third degree felony and increases the penalty for online sexual solicitation of a minor who is 14 to 16 years old from a third degree felony to a second degree felony.

HB 3849, effective June 15, 2007, creates new vehicle registration requirements for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and a penalty if an ATV is driven on public property while the driver and passengers are not wearing required safety apparel.

SB 1315 requires DPS to develop an alert system for missing senior citizens similar to the current Amber Alert Program for abducted children.

HB 323 requires all new buses purchased by a school district on or after September 1, 2010 to be equipped with lap/shoulder seatbelts. All buses contracted for use by a school district on or after September 1, 2014 must be equipped with lap/shoulder seatbelts. (The bill's provisions will not take effect unless the legislature appropriates the necessary funds to school districts to cover the expenses of such changes.)

HB 1815 excludes from unlawful carrying of a weapon a person who is carrying a hand-

gun, illegal knife, or club on the person's own premises or premises under their control or inside of or directly en route to a motor vehicle that is owned by the person or is under their control. The bill makes it an offense to carry a handgun in a motor vehicle that is owned by the person or under the person's control if the handgun is in plain view or the person is engaged in certain criminal activity, is prohibited from possessing a firearm, or is a member of a criminal street gang.

HB 3190 prohibits persons who have committed offenses such as vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence, and leaving the scene of an accident from operating a school bus for 10 years after the offense; requires school bus operators to wear seat belts if the operator's seat is equipped with such restraints; prohibits the operation of a school bus if the number of persons inside the bus exceeds the manufacturer's design capacity for the vehicle or if the bus' door is open; authorizes a school bus operator to prohibit a passenger from standing or sitting on the floor of a bus or anywhere that is not a seat; requires a school bus evacuation training program and requires a school district to train all of its students and teaching staff in the process of emergency school bus evacuation at least twice a year.

SB 1287 requires certain establishments that sell alcohol to post specific notification regarding the offense of human trafficking in both English and Spanish along with the number to the national human trafficking hotline.

HB 3613 creates a statewide standard for peace officer identification cards, including ID cards for reserve law enforcement officers and honorably retired peace officers.

SB 378, known as the "Castle Doctrine," removes the requirement that persons attempt to retreat before using deadly force to defend themselves.

HB 2112 prohibits a person from intentionally exhibiting, using or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm while on public or private school property (including in a school parking lot), or while on a school bus being used to transport children to or from school-sponsored activities.

SB 332 authorizes the state to prohibit a motor carrier from operating in intrastate commerce if the U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has prohibited the carrier from operating in interstate commerce because it is deemed unfit or unsafe.

SB 387 redefines "loose material" in Transportation Code Chapter 725 by adding the term "refuse," which is defined as "trash, rubbish, garbage, or any other discarded material." It also deletes existing statutory lan-

guage that exempts a vehicle operated at a speed less than 30 miles an hour from application of this chapter.

SB 545, HB 1638 and HB 2077 added more than 40 municipal police departments to those police agencies eligible to have DPS train their peace officers to become certified to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards.

HB 1766 makes a state jail felony of the theft of wiring or cable that consists of at least 50 percent aluminum, bronze, or copper metals and that has a value of less than \$20,000.

SB 244 authorizes a district or appellate court to seal an affidavit when there is compelling state interest for doing so, such as to prevent destruction of or tampering with evidence in a criminal investigation.

HB 991 (effective May 23, 2007) makes confidential DPS records about who holds a concealed handgun in Texas. Criminal justice agency officials still have to access this information.

SB 9 (effective June 15, 2007) requires a national criminal history background check for all certified public school employees; prevents individuals from employment with a school district if they have been convicted of a Title 5 Penal Code felony offense; or a sex offense when the victim of the crime was a child, a primary school student, or secondary school student; and creates a clearinghouse at DPS for criminal history background information on public school employees so this information can be shared between school districts.

HB 1241 requires any private security business to maintain criminal histories of its security personnel on file at the business and to make them available for inspection by DPS.

HB 1355, known as Lillian's Law, requires all dog owners to properly secure their dogs on their property. The law provides that a dog owner can be held criminally responsible if the dog causes serious bodily injury or death at a location other than the owner's property in an unprovoked attack during which the owner by criminal negligence failed to secure the dog. It exempts many dog professionals (including peace officers) who deal with dogs on a regular basis from the bill.

HB 1839 requires concealed handgun license (CHL) holders to take a continuing education course to renew their CHL every 10 years instead of every five years.

SB 502 increases the minimum liability coverage amounts for automobile insurance. The first increase applies to motor vehicle liability insurance policies issued or renewed after January 1, 2008. A second, larger increase in motor vehicle liability insurance coverage takes effect on January 1, 2011.

TISD accepts proposed tax rate, sets public hearing for Aug. 28

By **CHARLOTTE SMITH**
Editor

Troup school board members approved a proposed tax rate of \$1.08 at Monday's regular meeting and set a public hearing on the issue for 6 p.m. Aug. 28. Following that session, the board will open a regular meeting and adopt a tax rate.

The proposed rate would offer the average homeowner a savings of \$67.65 on property taxes (based on the average taxable property value of \$56,999). Last year's tax rate was \$1.28. See page 3B for a more detailed look at the rate proposals.

The trustees also accepted a \$10,000 check from the Troup Youth Association and voted to earmark those funds for renovation of fields.

Following an executive session, the board approved Ruth Wilson as a Spanish teacher and also voted to raise the stipend structure for several hard to fill positions.

The current platform offers \$2,000 to first year high school and middle school math teachers, high school science teachers, and middle and high school Spanish teachers. The amount increases by \$1,000 the second year, and another \$1,000 the third, for a maximum of \$4,000.

In order to be competitive

with area schools, trustees approved increases for all those positions.

The new schedule would offer middle school math and high school science instructors first year stipends of \$4,000, increasing to \$5,000 in the second year and then \$6,000.

For high school math and both middle and high school Spanish teachers, the approved increments are \$8,000, \$9,000 and \$10,000.

Dewayne Brown, director of support services, gave an update on several campus projects and said the new track should be open to the public on Monday, Aug. 20.

Jennifer Stewart, financial director, gave an update on investments and reported a Texas Education Agency payment of \$422,000.

Trustees accepted written reports from various departments, including daycare, which reported that they are one student away reaching capacity (51). In other matters, trustees approved:

- property and casualty insurance for 2007-08;
- food service bids for '07-'08;
- TAKS incentives for seven administrators;
- a local policy for student expression as a result of the passage of HB 3678 by the Texas legislature concerning a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint.

CAREER

Continued from Page 1A

lined up several speakers for the career day portion of the event. Those scheduled to speak include a college counselor, banker, firefighter, nurse, pastor, professional basketball player, dental assistant and Brookshire's store manager.

Army, Navy and Air Force recruiters will also be on hand to discuss military career opportunities.


Again, the event is entirely free of charge, and the public is urged to attend, said Mrs. Lacy. There are no requirements for

receiving the free school supplies.

The Back to School Bash follows the church's Father's Day picnic event, which was hampered by poor weather.

Although small in size, Lighthouse is trying to make an impact on the community.

"We are trying to do things that bring people together no matter their race, background or economic level," said Mrs. Lacy. "The church is the community, and we really want to be a part of that."



Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The City of Troup will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 17.5 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

Aug. 23, 2007 & 6:30 p.m. TISD Administration

The public hearing will be held on Aug. 27, 2007 at Building.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: Wilson, Richardson, Booth, Barton and Hale
 AGAINST the proposal: ()
 PRESENT and not voting: ()
 ABSENT: none absent

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	<u>9.01</u> % (increase)	or	<u> </u> % (decrease)
Debt service	<u>89.2</u> % (increase)	or	<u> </u> % (decrease)
Total expenditures	<u>12.3</u> % (increase)	or	<u> </u> % (decrease)

**Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value
as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code**

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>78,939,499</u>	\$ <u>90,705,074</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>776,020</u>	\$ <u>813,250</u>
Total taxable*** of all property	\$ <u>61,361,813</u>	\$ <u>74,056,498</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>776,020</u>	\$ <u>813,250</u>

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$ 596,698.75

Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ <u>.730629</u> per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$ <u>.718018</u> per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding year	\$ <u>.012611</u> per \$100 in value

Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year _____ % Increase
OR
1.726 % Decrease

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ <u>53,386</u>	\$ <u>52,388</u>
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ <u>-0-</u>	\$ <u>-0-</u>
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ <u>53,386</u>	\$ <u>52,388</u>

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$ 390.05.

The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$ 376.15. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be a increase of \$ or a decrease of \$ 13.89 in taxes.