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Bill to decrease ban of concealed weapon

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans licensed to carry concealed handguns would no longer face charges of trespassing simply for carrying their weapons on public property under a bill filed Wednesday by Sen. Jerry Patterson.

The author of the state's 1995 concealed-carry law, which allows Texans 21 and older to be licensed to carry concealed handguns, said more Texans might apply for licenses once various bans are lifted.

More than 116,000 Texans have been licensed to carry concealed handguns since the law took effect last year. Thousands of applications are pending at the Department of

Public Safety, which administers the law and issues the licenses.

Patterson, R-Pasadena, said concealed-gun bans established by state agencies, like the DPS, local governments and their subdivisions are illegal because the Texas Constitution says only the Legislature can regulate the "wearing of arms." He said the bans could cost law-abiding citizens and government entities time and money in legal battles.

Patterson's bill would put the Constitution's provision on regulating handguns into law. It also would limit the number of places where the guns are banned by eliminating

statutory bans in churches, nursing homes, amusement parks and most areas inside hospitals.

The concealed weapons would continue to be legally banned from hospital emergency rooms and from inside rooms where public meetings are being held.

Patterson said privately owned hospitals, churches, nursing homes and amusement parks could decide on their own to ban the guns.

"The doomsday scenario did not occur. I've yet to be in a gunfight in the middle of the street," Patterson said. "Responsible citizens can behave responsibly. For that reason, we're going to make the handgun

bill in Texas simpler."

But Rep. Sherri Greenberg, Austin, an opponent of the concealed-carry law, said many lawmakers voted for the measure after specific bans were added.

"I think what we should be doing is that we've taken a situation and made it as safe as possible. I don't think we should be going in another direction," she said.

Greenberg is sponsoring a bill that would allow cities to regulate the carrying of concealed guns. She said counties currently have the right and cities should as well.

"Ideally, this would be an issue of local control," she said.

Evidence points to mom in double homicide case

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Life insurance policies and will documents were found near the bodies of Darlie Routier's two sons after they were stabbed to death, a police officer has testified.

Prosecutors claim Routier, 27, was angry over money problems and the burdens of motherhood and that she fatally stabbed 6-year-old Devon and 5-year-old Damon Routier with a kitchen butcher knife on June 6.

Police claim she slashed herself and staged a crime scene in her home in Rowlett, a suburb of Dallas, in an attempt to fool investigators.

Routier contends an intruder killed her sons and attacked her before fleeing through a window in the garage.

The life insurance and will documents introduced in Routier's capital murder trial Tuesday were the first evidence aimed at establishing the motive prosecutors presented during their opening statement last week.

Under questioning by prosecutor Greg Davis, officer David Mayne said the family records were discovered in green folders about two feet from Devon's body. The documents, including Routier's will, shed light on her state of mind, Davis said.

Among the papers were life insurance renewals for Routier,

her husband, Darin, and the two slain boys.

Other papers included birth certificates, the children's immunization records, Darlie and Darin Routier's marriage license, a retail installment contract and handwritten notes.

Prosecutors also planned to present two items found in a trash bag — a letter from American Express and a letter from a mortgage company. The judge OK'd those items outside the presence of the jury.

During cross-examination that continued today, defense attorneys sought to cast doubt on police methods for collecting evidence at the crime scene.

According to prosecutors, blood was discovered on assorted cloths and rags in the house, on some adult athletic shoes and on a blanket found in one of the upstairs' bedrooms.

Blood also was found near the sink, in the utility room, on a small dark baseball cap in the utility room and at the utility room entrance to the garage, he said.

No blood was found on items in the garage or on the garage window sill, Mayne said.

A vacuum cleaner was upside-down on the kitchen floor, and bloody footprints leading away from the crime scene were discovered beneath it, the officer testified.

Rock exhibit visits Fort Worth

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — An exhibit recognizing rock's best is rolling across America.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum traveling exhibit kicked off a 40-city tour Wednesday. Organizers hope it will lure curious fans to the permanent collection in Cleveland.

The exhibit features a short film about the hall of fame as well as backstage photos and quotes from rockers like Evan Dando of the Lemonheads and Steven Tyler

of Aerosmith.

The photos are courtesy of Preston, a rock photographer more than 25 years who has taken candid shots of musicians like David Lee Roth, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Bono of U2 and the Eagles, among others.

"I think kids are really interested and the fans are really interested in what goes on behind the scenes, you know, away from the CD covers, away from the music videos," Preston said.

CORPS

Continued from Page 1

The Corps will be introducing a new outfit this spring, G-3, which will be devoted to helping cadets on academic probation bring up their grades.

G-3, an acronym for "get good grades", is a voluntary outfit for upperclassmen in the Corps. Cadets will be placed in an environment conducive to learning, spending their days differently than the rest of the Corps, with less emphasis on Corps activities and more emphasis on school.

In the past, cadets on academic probation were dismissed from the Corps, but were still allowed to attend the University. With the creation of G-3, cadets who wish to remain in the Corps may join the outfit until their grades improve.

Hopgood said he wants to make G-3 a positive experience. "The intent is for people to work

themselves out of G-3 and get back to their outfits," he said.

Almost 25 years after its creation, company L-2 is being de-activated. Hopgood said the two primary reasons for the de-activation were poor grades and poor retention.

The freshmen and juniors in L-2 had overall GPRs below 2.0 and lost seven of their 15 freshmen.

Parker Greene, the company commander for L-2 and a senior performance major, said the low retention rate was due to externalities, such as medical conditions of cadets and traumatic events. To continue into the spring, the outfit needed 40 members, he said, but fell short.

Greene said the Commandant made a wise decision with the de-activation.

"I support him 100 percent," he said. "We did the best we could with what we had. We fell a little short, and now we have to move on."

A de-activation ceremony will be held for L-2 today at 5 p.m. in the Corps of Cadets center.

AT Tutoring 260-2660

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FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 20-23

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

		MON Jan-20	TUES Jan-21	WED Jan-22	THUR Jan-23
PHYS 201	5-7 PM	CH 1, 2	CH 3	CH 4	CH 5
CHEM 102	7-9 PM	CH 15A	CH 15B	CH 16A	CH 16B
PHYS 202	9-11 PM	CH 24	CH 25	CH 26	CH 27
PHYS 208	11 PM-1 AM	CH 22	CH 23	CH 24	CH 25

CHEM 101 MATH 151, 152 PHYS 218
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THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE OFFERED THIS SEMESTER:

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ACCT 229
ACCT 230
FINC 341

CLASSES BEGIN SOON
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\$5 at the door

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Police Beat

A&M campus kept safe during break

BY GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M campus was free from any major accidents or serious criminal activity during the winter break.

Aside from numerous incidents of misdemeanor theft, criminal mischief, alcohol-related crimes and other minor offenses, A&M was safe during the break.

Sergeant Jim Lindholm of the University Police Department said the campus was uneventful during the break.

"This was one of our quieter [winter breaks]," Lindholm said.

He credits this to the preventive measures taken by UPD to monitor the vacant campus.

In addition to routine patrolling, police and security officers conducted regular drive-by checks of every A&M building during the break, inspecting all doors. If a door was found unlocked, the door officer would search that building fully before proceeding to the next.

Furthermore, the UPD continued to operate 24 hours a day, with at least one officer on call at any given time.

"Hopefully [with these measures] we prevent crimes," Lindholm said.

Yield yourself to the possibilities.
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Sunday, January 19, 1997
2 - 6 pm

For more information,
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