

School districts challenge state wealth-sharing statute

DALLAS (AP) — Three Dallas-area school districts are challenging the state's school finance law that requires property-rich school districts to send part of their tax revenue to the state for redistribution to poorer districts.

Plano, Coppell and Highland Park have agreed to be plaintiffs in a lawsuit that would be filed through the Texas School Coalition, a statewide group of 70 property-wealthy districts dedicated to reforming the 7-year-old finance law known as "Robin Hood."

Of the \$73.1 million that the Highland Park school district will collect this year, about \$42 million will be sent to the state for redistribution. Plano will send nearly \$78 million to Austin.

The lawsuit is "a difficult step. It's not taken lightly," Plano superintendent Doug Otto said. "We want to make sure we're deliberate."

John Connolly, superintendent of the Highland Park school district, is president of the Texas School Coalition.

"It takes years for this to go

through the courts. As the time goes on, the percentage of the Robin Hood tax grows greater and greater," he said. "Our fears are, unless something is done now in the short term, there is going to be a train wreck."

"As the time goes on, the percentage of the Robin Hood tax grows greater and greater."

— John Connolly
Highland Park ISD superintendent

Under the system, a property-wealthy school district's so-called recapture payment is based on enrollment estimates and property values. In the 2000-01 school year, 84 property-wealthy school districts statewide are expected to share \$522 million of their property-tax revenues with other districts.

Craig Foster, executive director

of the Equity Center, an association that represents low-wealth school districts, said his group would oppose any action that would widen the funding gap between property-wealthy and lower-wealth districts.

"If it increases the inequity that already exists, we would have to fight it," Foster said.

Coalition members argue that the system is unfair and that without changes they will be forced to cut programs drastically in their districts. For several years, the Highland Park district has required students to pay an athletic participation fee of \$150. Private funds have also been used to pay for teachers, programs and staff development.

Plano school officials have reduced bus service, staggered school starting times and made other budget cuts in recent years.

No decision has been reached about when a lawsuit might be filed, and Connolly would not say what circumstances might prompt the coalition to act. Major school-finance reform is not on the Legislature's agenda, he said.

More meningitis cases confirmed

Officials concerned as Houston has lowest vaccination record

HOUSTON (AP) — Two more cases of spinal meningitis were confirmed this weekend in suburban Houston, bringing the number to at least 18 cases in the area since Oct. 9, health officials said. Two have died of the disease this month.

The meningitis outbreak has been added to concerns raised late last year about Houston's potential for epidemic as the city with the lowest vaccination rate in the nation — a city officials say is already vulnerable to disease because of its role as major port and airline hub.

Although meningitis has not been included in the traditional round of childhood shots, there has been growing worry among area health professionals about meningitis and hepatitis, as

well as traditional childhood diseases.

Mass vaccinations were given to those between the ages of 2 and 24 Saturday at New Caney Junior High School. About 8,000 people from five counties parked along the highway and waited in line for hours to receive vaccines provided by the Texas Department of Health.

The vaccination program was recommended in the community of about 2,700 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Montgomery County Health Department, said H. Mark Guidry, Texas Department of Health regional director.

Vaccinations are recommended when cases exceed one per 100,000 in a

three-month period. The Texas Department of Health is trying to determine if it will give mass vaccinations in Conroe.

Meningitis is a severe bacterial infection of tissue covering the brain and spinal cord and can result in blindness, deafness, amputations and permanent brain damage. It is not as contagious as the common cold or flu and is spread by direct contact, such as coughing, sneezing, kissing and immediate sharing of unwashed utensils.

Symptoms may include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, a rash, confusion, drowsiness and coma, according to the health department.

A vaccine is effective against some of the bacteria that cause meningitis,

but cannot cure those already exposed, health officials said.

On Thursday, the CDC declared an official meningitis outbreak in Montgomery County, just north of Houston. The two new cases are in Fort Bend County, in suburban southwest Houston. A 13-year-old boy from Magnolia, about 35 miles northwest of Houston and a 56-year-old woman from the Houston suburb of Humble, in Harris County, have died of the disease in the past two weeks.

Over the weekend, officials confirmed an eighth-grade student at Lamar Junior High School in Fort Bend County was taken to the emergency room after developing symptoms of the disease.

The Texas A&M University Interfraternity Council (IFC) presents...

SPRING RUSH 2001

ATP: Alpha Gamma Rho
ATΩ: Alpha Tau Omega
BΘΠ: Beta Theta Pi
XΦ: Chi Phi
ΔX: Delta Chi
ΔΣΦ: Delta Sigma Phi
ΔTA: Delta Tau Delta
KA: Kappa Alpha
KΣ: Kappa Sigma
ΛXA: Lambda Chi Alpha
ΦΔΘ: Phi Delta Theta
ΦKΘ: Phi Kappa Theta
ΠKΦ: Pi Kappa Phi
ΣAE: Sigma Alpha Epsilon
ΣX: Sigma Chi
ΣN: Sigma Nu
ΣΦE: Sigma Phi Epsilon
TKE: Tau Kappa Epsilon

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

January 22 - 26: Individual fraternity events
January 27: Bid House @ Systems Building, noon

Any questions?

Contact Graham Stiles, VP of Recruitment,
at 693-8640 or gbs5530@unix.tamu.edu or
Jason Farr, IFC President,
at 485-0040 or
jasonkfarr@hotmail.com



Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Spring Rush 2001

Tues., Jan. 23: Pizza & Pool @ Dixie Chicken, 7-9
Thurs., Jan. 25: Meet the AGR's 7-8:15, Rudder 404
Sat., Jan. 27: BBQ @ The Oaks Park, Noon-4 (Harvey & Stellings)
Sun., Jan. 28: Bowling @ Triangle Bowl 2-4
Tues., Jan. 30: Chicken Oil, 7-9
Wed., Jan. 31: Alumni Smoker, 7-9, The Faculty Club
For more information call Matt @ 680-1859 or Allen @ 695-7778

Alpha Tau Omega Spring Rush 2001

Mon: Billiards @ Yesterday's 7-9 p.m.
Tues: Dinner with ATO @ Zapata's 7-9 p.m.
Wed: Disco Bowling @ Triangle Bowl 9:30-11:30 p.m.
Thurs: Brotherhood Social @ Kyle Field Press Box 7-9 p.m.
Fri: Date Party @ Oxford Street, 7:30 p.m.
Sat: Bid House @ Administration Building, 12:00 p.m.

Beta Theta Pi

Mon., Jan. 22: Meet the Betas, Beta House, 5-7
Tues., Jan. 23: Carney's, Carney's Pub, 6-8
Wed., Jan. 24: Fajita Cookout*, The Tap, 6-8
Thurs., Jan. 25: Beta Banquet* ***, Pebble Creek, 7-9
Fri., Jan. 26: Aggie Cowboy Roundup*, Dick Freeman Arena, 5-9
Sat., Jan. 27: Bid House

* invite only
** coat & tie

CHI PHI SPRING FRATERNITY RUSH 2001

Mon., Jan. 22: Intro to Chi Phi at the Chi Phi House, 7-9
Tues., Jan. 23: Basketball - Rec Center 8-10
Wed., Jan. 24: Chicken Oil Co. 7-9
Thurs., Jan. 25: Triangle Bowl 8-10
Fri., Jan. 26: Bid Party at the Chi Phi House 8:30-midnight
Rush Chairman: Brian Donoghue
Chi Phi President: Derek Dizon Chi Phi House: 846-3462

DELTA CHI DELTA CHI

Monday - POET'S Pool Hall, 7-9 p.m.
Tuesday - Informational @ Clayton Williams Alumni Center, 7-9 p.m.
Wednesday - Triangle Bowl, 9-11 p.m.
Thursday - Shrimp Boil, 7-9 p.m.*
Friday - Date Party @ Cafe Capri, 8-10 p.m.
*check for location

DELTA SIGMA PHI

1/22 Mon. • Zapato's, 7-9 p.m.
1/23 Tues. • Softball Game @ Penberthy, 6-8 p.m.
1/24 Wed. • Yesterday's, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
1/25 Thurs. • Gattiland, 7-9 p.m.
Lunch: Fitzwilly's 12-2 p.m.
1/26 Fri. • Cenare, 6-8 p.m.
Lunch: Dixie Chicken 12-2 p.m.
1/27 Sat. • Bid House, 11 a.m.

DELTA TAU DELTA

MIC OPER. HOUSE Jan. 21 • 7-9 p.m., MIC
PRESS BOX RALLY Jan. 24 • 7-9 p.m., Kyle Field Press Box
MEET THE DELTS Jan. 22 • 7-9 p.m., Fox & Hound
BONES & BBQ Jan. 25 • 7-9 p.m., 1713 Toddrail
CASINO NIGHT Jan. 23 • 7-9 p.m.
Wings 'N' More Party Room
*Invitation Only
President: Dain Tolbert: 696-6339
Rush Chairman: Nick Ferrell: 764-7793
www.aggiedelts.com

Kappa Alpha Spring Rush 2001

Mon. 1/22: Meet the KA's, 7-9, Double Daves Northgate (upstairs)
Tues. 1/23: Fish Fry, 6-8, KA Property
Wed. 1/24: Pool, 7-9, Fox & Hound
Thurs. 1/25: *Steak Night, 7-9, T-Bone Jones
Fri. 1/26: **Date Party, 7-9, College Station Hilton
Sat. 1/27: *Bid House, Systems Building
*by invitation only +coat & tie
Zach Present: 764-8521
Eric Brigger: 846-5879
John Clinkscales: 695-7612
Sitas Sarver: 680-0990

KAPPA SIGMA

Monday: 6:30-9p.m., Gattiland
Tuesday: 6-9p.m., Fajita Cookoff
Kappa Sig House
Wednesday: 7-9p.m., Pool & Darts
Carney's
Thursday: 8p.m., Informational
Rudder Tower
Friday: 7p.m., Dinner, T-Bone Jones
Saturday: Bid day

Lambda Chi Alpha Spring Rush 2001

Mon., Jan. 22: Bowling Wolf Pen 9p.m.-12a.m.
Tues., Jan. 23: Billiards Alfred T. Hornbacks 7-9p.m.
Wed., Jan. 24: Informational* Rec Center, Garden Room 7:45-9p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 25: Date Party+** Cenare's 7-10p.m.
Fri., Jan. 26: Mixer Brazos Hall 9p.m.-12a.m.
Sat. Jan. 27: Bid House Administration Building 11a.m.-1p.m.
*Sunday Casual **Coat & Tie *Invitation Only
For more information: http://lca.tamu.edu
Rush Chairman: Adam Prewett- 693.6712 or Kurt Salisbury- 695.2989

Phi Delta Theta Spring 2001 Rush Schedule

Mon. 1/22 Tap 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tues. 1/23 Phi Delt House 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Wed. 1/24 Alfred T. Hornbacks 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Thurs. 1/25 Clayton Williams Alumni Center 6:30-8:30 p.m. (invite only)
Fri. 1/26 Oxford Street Restaurant 6:45-8:45 (invite only)
Sat. 1/27 Bid Day
Rush Chairman: Lucas Sealy 775-8098 Russell Hughey 693-5785 Michael Dewey 696-3641 Josh Cathcart 696-3641

PHI KAPPA THETA

January
Monday, 22 Meet the Phi Kaps PKT House 6:30-9p.m.
Tuesday, 23 Karaoke Chelsea's Pub 8:30-10p.m.
Wednesday, 24 Phi Kap Luau PKT House 7-9p.m.
Thursday, 25 Informational Rudder 701 8-9p.m.
Friday, 26 Bar-B-Q PKT House 6-7:30p.m.
Saturday, 27 Bid House Systems Bldg. Noon-2p.m.

TRANSPORTATION / DIRECTIONS / INFORMATION
Chris Blythe 778.4829 or Blake Fitzgerald 693.2350

Pi Kappa Phi Spring Rush 2001

Mon., Jan. 22: Poets, 7-9
Tues., Jan. 23: Fajitas @ house, 7-9
Wed., Jan. 24: Alumni Center, 7:30-9
Thurs., Jan. 25: Faculty Club, 7-9
Fri., Jan. 26: Date Party, tba

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Jan. 22nd BBQ & Billiards 6-9 p.m. ΣAE House
Jan. 23rd The Tap 7-9 p.m.
Jan. 24th *Faculty Club 7-9 p.m.
Jan. 25th Triangle Bowl 9-11 p.m.
Jan. 26th *Date Party 9:30-11 p.m.
Jan. 27th Bid Day noon
Lunch daily at Duddley's Draw noon-2 p.m.
*Invite Only / Coat & Tie
Rush Chairman: JJ Trevino 696-4469 or 575-5673
Asst. Rush Chairmen: Hunter Mahanek 680-9417 / Zach Kent 680-3308

SIGMA CHI

Mon., Jan. 22: 7:30-9:30 BBQ ΣX House
Tues., Jan. 23: 7:30-9:30 Pool Fox & Hound
Wed., Jan. 24: 7:30-9:30 Banquet Pebble Creek CC
Thurs., Jan. 25: 7:30-9:30 Smoker ΣX House
Fri., Jan. 26: 7:30-9:30 Date Party* ΣX House
*Invitation Only
President: Creed Ford - 680.0091

SIGMA NU SPRING RUSH 2001

Mon. 1/22 Wild Game Cookout 7-9 p.m., Sigma Nu House
Tues. 1/23 Pool @ POETS 7-9 p.m., POETS Billiards
Wed., 1/24 Informational Banquet* 7-9 p.m.,
Briarcrest Country Club
Thurs., 1/25 Lunch+ 11a.m.-1p.m., Fox & Hound
Driving Range (casual) 6-8 p.m.,
Lonestar Golf Academy
Fri., 1/26 Date Party* 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Pebble Creek Country Club
Sat., 1/27 Bid House 12 p.m.
*invite only *Coat & Tie
For info: Sigma Nu House 764-1869

Sigma Phi Epsilon

Mon., Jan. 22 Golf Lonestar Golf Academy 7-9
Tues., Jan. 23 BBQ Sig Ep House 7-9
Wed., Jan. 24 Informational Reed Arena 7-9
Thurs., Jan. 25 Pool Poets 7-9
Fri., Jan. 26 Date Party 6:30-9
Dinner 9-11

Spring Rush 2001

TKE

Mon., Jan. 22 Meet the Tekes 6-8 pm Double Daves, Northgate
Tues., Jan. 23 Bowling with TKE 6-8 pm Triangle Bowl
Wed., Jan. 24 TKE Banquet 7:30-9 pm T-Bone Jones
Thurs., Jan. 25 Fraternity for Life Informational+ 7-9 pm Reed Arena *301
Fri., Jan. 26 Date Party* 7-9 pm Cenare
Sat., Jan. 27 Bid House Noon TAMU Systems Bldg.
*Coat & Tie, *Invitation Only
For more information call: TKE House - 260-8353 or Matt Cole (Pres.) - 268-7552

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Using the World Wide Web for Research

Texas A&M University Libraries is offering a class to assist Texas A&M University students and faculty in using the World Wide Web for research.

Session I - Introduction to Using the World Wide Web for Research

Day	Date	Time	Location
Monday	Jan 22	5:45 - 6:15 pm	Student Computing Center, 114
Tuesday	Jan 23	5:30 - 6:00 pm	Student Computing Center, 114
Wednesday	Jan 24	5:45 - 6:15 pm	Student Computing Center, 114
Thursday	Jan 25	5:30 - 6:00 pm	Student Computing Center, 114

Session II - Beyond the Basics - Using the World Wide Web for Research

Day	Date	Time	Location
Monday	Jan 22	5:45 - 6:15 pm	Student Computing Center, 114
Tuesday	Jan 23	5:30 - 6:00 pm	Student Computing Center, 114
Wednesday	Jan 24	5:45 - 6:15 pm	Student Computing Center, 114
Thursday	Jan 25	5:30 - 6:00 pm	Student Computing Center, 114

Bring a 3.5 formatted high density disk if you want to save information.
No charge and no sign-up is necessary. All are welcome.