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Mount Pleasant, Texas 75456 Last Published On: Tuesday, June 28, 2011

## THE STARS ARE BRIGHT

### News

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#### MPISD approves bus safety, security features

By AMBER CULLEN - Tribune Features Editor  
Tuesday, June 28, 2011 11:43 AM CDT

The Mount Pleasant ISD Board of Trustees approved budget amendments Monday night for the purchase of a bus routing and Global Positioning System (GPS) system for the district's fleet of buses by Education Logistics, Inc. (Edulog), with a first year cost of \$31,692.89, and also a \$45,000 purchase of cameras from KLC Video Security which will equip 15 buses with three cameras each as well as a DVR unit.

According to Deputy Supt. Mike Lide, the total cost of the GPS/ routing system, in addition to the start up cost, is \$16,818 for each subsequent year.

Lide said this system will ensure the safety of MPISD students. "The goal of this purchase is to generate savings. It will allow us to be more efficient to route the buses," Lide told the board. "It also allows us to be a lot more proactive from a safety standpoint."

According to Lide, based on 75 routes, the total annual savings would be \$41,000 for the first year. He added that Edulog also calculates the savings, prepares all analysis of the district's busing system, and prepares reports for the administrators.

The video system, which will be installed in 15 of the district buses, is a safety precaution, Lide said, as video cameras will allow the district "to be very proactive" in disciplinary actions, and to prevent bullying on buses.

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East Texas Broadcasting, as a sportscaster for Mount Pleasant High School (MPHS) Tiger Football games.

MPISD Director of Communications Dr. Judith Saxton said "he is the voice of the Mount Pleasant Tiger football team."

Board President Joey Mayfield said: "You can't name the number of things he's done for this county. You can't name what he's done for us."

"We are blessed from God that this man's been here," he added.

MPISD police department officer Randy Hinton was also honored during the meeting, as the selected recipient of the 2010-11 annual Gold Medal Public Service award for law enforcement from the District 12 VFW.



Willie Williams is honored by the MPISD school board for his service as the "voice of the Mount Pleasant Tiger Football team." Board President Joey Mayfield presents the award. TRIBUNE photo by Amber Cullen.

"From a savings standpoint, it will also eliminate the need for some of the bus monitors," Lide said, adding that the cameras are equipped with microphones as well, so "you can hear everything on the bus."

In other action, the board - in order to adequately meet the Department of Education's Hunger Free Act of 2010 requirements - also approved to raise the cost of school lunches for students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade's lunches by \$.10, which orders "equity in school lunch pricing."

In a presentation, retired MPISD administrator Willie Williams was honored with a certificate as a member of the 2011 Media Honor Roll for the school district.

Williams received his recognition for his service with East Texas Broadcasting, as a sportscaster for Mount Pleasant High School (MPHS) Tiger Football games.

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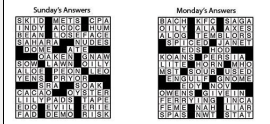
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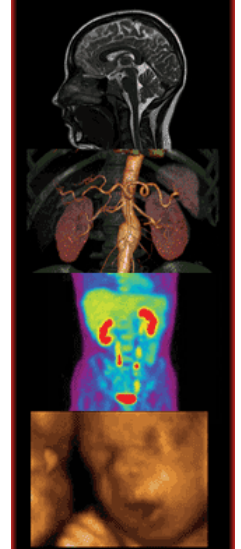


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