

# Greatwood arsonist gets 10 years probation

## Man still faces assault charges

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A 21-year-old Needville man who admitted to setting a house fire five years ago earned the sympathy of a Fort Bend County jury this week, receiving a requested probated sentence.

Jonathan Silva, who set the fire in the Greatwood subdivision on Dec. 28, 2002, learned the terms of his sentence Thursday.

Silva had pleaded guilty to first-degree felony arson, for which he could have been sentenced to prison for a term from five years to life. He committed the act as a juvenile, but a judge granted a request to allow prosecutors to try him as an adult.

The trial took place in the 400th District Court of Judge Clifford Vacek, where prosecutors requested a prison sentence, contending there was evi-

dence of a sexual assault and aggravated assault in 2005.

The commonality between the cases had been Silva's apparent treatment of women. He committed the 2002 arson in anger that a high school sweetheart had broken up with him. By 2005, he had been dating someone else, and this woman testified in court to being assaulted by Silva during a similarly rocky relationship.

Silva denied the 2005 charges, which aren't expected to be tried for several months. If found guilty, Silva would not be eligible for another probation sentence, and he could face up to 20 years in prison.

Terms of Silva's 10 years of probation include a requirement that he use a satellite monitoring system, stay 100 yards away from certain persons and that he remain in the county unless he receives approval from the probation department.