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Sophomore Michelle Monk and freshmen Kim ages from home thanks to the Pearland-Meister and Amy Frank receive finals care pack- Friendswood area Aggie Mothers Club.

Attorneys ask for review, execution stay

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Tuesday was considering whether to halt the scheduled execution of Carlos DeLuna, an assassin convicted of a 1983 killing in Co. Christi.

Carlos DeLuna, 27, faced execution by lethal injection before dawn Thursday after the robbery-slaying of 24-year-old Wanda Jean Lopez, a service station clerk.

State attorneys have asked the appeals court to review the case without issuing an immediate stay.

"We're arguing they can decide the issues without having to stay the execution," Bill Zapalac, an assistant attorney general, said Tuesday. "They have plenty of time to review the case and make a decision."

Attorneys for DeLuna are arguing their client had a history of alcohol and drug abuse and the jury's verdict was not allowed to consider that before sentencing him to death. Zapalac, however, said a defense motion objecting to the jury's verdict to consider the mitigating circumstances was withdrawn at the trial.

"Our position on all of this is we can't really challenge the application of the statute if he didn't present mitigating evidence," he said.

"They withdrew the motion. I assume that's because there was no mitigating evidence."

Lopez was stabbed to death minutes after she phoned police and attempted to describe her assailant to an emergency dispatcher.

DeLuna has insisted another person committed the crime but has refused to elaborate.

Dallas reporter returns home

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas journalist reported missing from El Salvador last week was on the trail of a story when he disappeared, the radio network's president said Tuesday.

Cadena Radio Centro manager and reporter Sal Valdez, 44, who had been missing since Nov. 28, phoned network president Barrett Alley Monday night from Guatemala.

"He told me that he was following a story and that he didn't want to explain it on the phone, that he wanted to explain it to me in person," Alley said Tuesday.

Valdez was scheduled to fly into Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Tuesday afternoon on a Continental flight, Alley said.

The Dallas-based Spanish-language radio network had dispatched Valdez to El Salvador on Nov. 25 to monitor the latest outbreak in that nation's civil war for the network's Salvadoran listeners, Alley said.

Cadena Radio Centro News Director Gilberto Cortez had said earlier that Valdez was expected to return Monday night, but his flight out of Guatemala was overlooked.

About 60 members of Hispanic groups conducted a vigil in front of Dallas City Hall Monday night. The groups had planned the vigil after Valdez was reported missing.

School fund plan unveiled

AUSTIN (AP) — Several lawmakers Tuesday unveiled a \$5.6 billion, three-year plan to reform public school finances and blasted Gov. Bill Clements for failing to allow the Legislature to start work on the issue immediately.

"I'd like to address the issue right now," said Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, an author of the finance proposal. "I think we've waited long enough."

Uribe said school districts need to know soon how much money they will be receiving so they can plan for the 1990-91 school year. He noted that lawmakers have failed in more than 11 months to reform workers' compensation, and that was Clements' top priority.

"If this Legislature takes as long to deal with public school finance as it has with workers' comp, we will certainly be in a chaotic situation," the senator said.

The Texas Supreme Court, voting 9-0, in October ruled the state system of funding public schools unconstitutional and gave the Legislature a May 1 deadline to write a new plan.

Clements has decided not to convene lawmakers on school finance until March or April, saying he first wants a study to recommend a solution. A special committee started looking at the issue late last month.

But the lawmakers said the information already is available.

"The fact is, we have researched this thing long enough," said Rep. Gregory Luna, D-San Antonio, House sponsor of the new plan. "It is time to act. We've heard from every expert imaginable. We need to act."

"Nothing has been more damaging than Gov. Clements' delay on this issue," added Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi.

Truan said Clements' record on school finance, including his support for a constitutional amendment to legalize the current system, has been damaging.

"That is a horrible record which I predict will forever condemn the legacy of the Clements administration to the dustbin of history, just as the existing system of school finance has condemned so many hundreds of thousands of Texas school students to an inferior education," Truan said.

In a separate interview with the Associated Press, Attorney General Jim Mattox also called for quick action.

"The governor has absolutely no intention of calling a session of the Legislature to deal with school finance before March or April time frame or we never going to get it done," Mattox said.

"And he needs to go on and propose a state lottery on the (legislative agenda) now... so we can get \$500 million to \$700 million more for school finance without having a tax increase," Mattox said.

The governor's press secretary Rossanna Salazar, said Clements remains convinced that the Legislature will have enough time if he calls school finance special sessions in March or April.

"Gov. Clements is addressing the issue with the best intentions," Salazar said.

"He firmly believes that the Legislature will have plenty of time in spring to resolve the question of education reform. Let me just point out again, that in its ruling the Supreme Court said a plan must be in place by May 1. It didn't say that funding to be in place by May 1," she said.

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FAST DELIVERY

Mail

(Continued from page 3)

year's writing campaign, which collected 101 letters. Hopkins, special programs chairman of Clements Hall, said that the "Mail Call!" program is a good way to spread the holiday spirit.

"I know it can be very lonely when you're away from home, especially at Christmas," Hopkins, an avid letter writer, said. "Writing letters is a pretty simple way to show your appreciation."

Last year, Hopkins sent seven letters and received one response from a Longview man who was returning from Taiwan.

"It was great to get a response back," she said. "He said he appreciated the fact that someone remembered him."

Last year, the organization of Jennifer Leedom, Clements Hall Honorary for its 233 written letters. An additional 63 letters were collected from students by Omega Phi Alpha's Deborah Cook.

"Mail Call!" has grown steadily since it began. Cards and letters are sent to more than 900 units and ac-

tivities, reaching 40 states and all four corners of the globe.

Founded by Lee Spencer, the program was inspired by a similar mail program known as "Vietnam Mail Call."

Spencer sent several Christmas cards and letters through it for four years and received many appreciative responses. As the Vietnam War wound down, it was suggested that the program be renamed and expanded worldwide.

Because no one made an effort to rename the Vietnam program, Spencer began planning a replacement activity, and "Mail Call!" was born.

Before the program was fully underway, Spencer was employed in civil service in Washington, D.C. After two years of working overtime hours to support "Mail Call!," he returned to the railroad industry, which allowed him to devote more time to the program.

The deadline for Christmas letters was Friday. However, students are encouraged to participate in the Valentine's Day "Mail Call!". Anyone interested should write to: MAIL CALL!, Box 988, St. Robert, MO, 65583. The deadline for Valentine's Day letters is Feb. 1, 1990.

What's Up

Wednesday

- A&M CYCLING TEAM:** will sell T-shirts at meeting at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 104 Reed McDonald.
- SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS:** will meet and hold elections at 6 p.m. in Zachry. Check banner for room number.
- Parents' Weekend Committee:** has applications available in the MSC for 1990 Parents of the Year.
- MSC SCONA:** will sell conference sweatshirts and have a general committee meeting at 6 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
- SADDLE & SIRLOIN CLUB:** will have a Christmas formal at 8 p.m. at the Texas Hall of Fame. Tickets are \$6 per person or \$10 per couple.
- TRAP & SKEET CLUB:** will take yearbook pictures, have a monthly meeting and practice at Arrowhead Gun Club on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
- DAVIS-GARY DORM:** will show "Animal House" at 7 p.m. on the Davis-Gary Quad on Northside.

Thursday

- TRAP & SKEET CLUB:** will take yearbook pictures, have a monthly meeting and practice at Arrowhead Gun Club on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

A basketful of cash is better than a garage full of 'stuff'

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