

Winter storm covers Panhandle area

From The Hereford Brand and AP Wire Reports

A winter storm brought snowfall and cold temperatures to Hereford. The high temperature was a chilly, 28 degrees Monday. The temperatures dipped to 21 degrees Tuesday morning. One-half of an inch of snow Monday and one inch of snow overnight was recorded by KPAN Radio, the city's official weather reporting station.

The winter weather conditions delayed school buses; therefore, several Hereford schools began about an hour late this morning.

In Dallas, Sherry Sonnenberg says the snow painting the landscape along

Interstate 35 in North Central Texas brings back Christmas memories, but would be hazardous if it melts and then refreezes.

At least one death Monday was already blamed on the winter ice that returned to the Lone Star State following record high temperatures.

"It looks a little like Christmas," said Sherry Sonnenberg, who works at the Czech Stop in West. "Behind where we work, in a big field, it's so pretty and white - but it's been melting."

"If it freezes right now, all the slush will turn to ice again," she said, adding at least an inch of snow had fallen.

A 50-year-old man died Monday afternoon in a two-vehicle accident on Farm-to-Market Road 429 just east

of Terrell, the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

A DPS officer said the wreck occurred during a snowfall, and there were numerous other weather-related mishaps.

"The roads are not in very good shape," the officer, who declined to be identified, said Monday night. "We are getting a lot of bridges and overpasses freezing over."

Winter storm watches were posted by the National Weather Service for most of Northwest and North Texas as well as the Edwards Plateau and the Houston area.

Up to six inches of snow was expected in Lubbock, with two to four inches in North Texas. Sleet and freezing rain was forecast for as far

south as the Austin and Houston areas.

The NWS said one to three inches of snow fell across much of North Texas, with the Hillsboro area and other scattered locations receiving as much as five inches. Temperatures in the region have plummeted 50 degrees in less than a week.

Last week, North Texans enjoyed highs in the low 80s; Monday's temperatures were in the 30s.

But even healthy employees can have trouble making it to work when it snows, 7-Eleven manager Doak Robins said in Dallas.

"We serve the public. It can ice up and we'll still have walk-in business," he said. "Unfortunately, there's no snow days."

Joe Harris, an NWS meteorologist

in Fort Worth, said it's not unusual to have balmy weather on one side of a weather system followed by a freeze.

"Most Texans know that when it gets real warm in the wintertime you've got a cold snap coming," Harris said.

Monday's forecast calls for snow developing in the western part of North Texas in the afternoon and spreading northeast. Harris said it should start tapering off Tuesday night.

The NWS issued a snow advisory Monday afternoon for a large part of north-central Texas after reports of moderate to heavy snowfall.

Temperatures were expected to remain around the 30s through Wednesday.

With the snow, of course, icy roads

won't be far behind, so driving could be risky through Wednesday, Harris said.

The cold front that was passing through Texas did reach South Texas Monday, but temperatures remained slightly higher than the rest of the state, with some in the 60s.

West Texas, however, was under a heavy snow and winter storm watch. Snow accumulations of 1 to 6 inches were expected.

Fittingly, the West Texas town of Winters was expecting overnight snow accumulation. Not everyone in town was prepared, however.

"We're selling lots of antifreeze, (windshield) de-icer and ice scrapers," said Naomi Gerhart, who works at Milton's Hardware & Auto Supplies. "Today, people are

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Hustlin' Hereford, home of Rebecca Walls

The Hereford Brand



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City adopts new codes Monday

New building, plumbing, mechanical and fire codes and a revised ordinance for unsafe building demolition were adopted by the Hereford City Commission Monday.

The codes are part of the uniform building code, which will replace the standard building code, City Chief Building Official Pete Wilt said.

After looking at the new building codes, Wilt said, construction contractors are willing to comply.

A schedule of permit fees is part of the new codes, he said.

A revised ordinance for the

demolition of unsafe buildings was drafted by Wilt, City Manager Chester Nolen and City Attorney Terry Langehennig.

The current ordinance has been largely ineffective in the demolition process, Nolen said.

The new ordinance would speed up the process in the demolition of unsafe buildings. The ordinance will allow for a 41-day demolition period, Mayor Bob Josserrand said.

"We truly want to speed up the process of demolishing dilapidated, old buildings," Josserrand said.

Gingrich awaits verdict of House

WASHINGTON (AP) - After personally appealing for loyalty to the Republican revolution, an unrepentant Newt Gingrich awaits the House's judgment in a speaker's election clouded by his admitted ethics violations.

Republican leaders predicted victory in today's election, but five GOP lawmakers said they would vote for someone else. Their potential defection left enough doubt that GOP leaders pledged to lobby members until the roll was called.

Gingrich spoke to Republicans behind closed doors Monday night in an exhausting four-hour meeting. Without displaying anger, participants said, he answered questions about his use of tax-exempt organizations and his inaccurate responses to investigators - the heart of an ethics case that is nearing completion.

Contrite about his misdeeds but not about the need to re-elect him speaker, Gingrich "let members know this is not about Newt Gingrich, this is about political assassination," said Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

Democrats, DeLay said, want to kill the Republican message "by killing the messenger."

House Republicans were voting today before receiving a recommended punishment from the ethics committee. But two members of the ethics committee, Reps. Porter Goss of Florida and Steve Schiff of New Mexico, assured colleagues at

Monday's meeting there would be no embarrassing surprises when the panel holds a hearing on a recommended sanction.

The House will decide punishment by Jan 21. Goss and Schiff have signaled they believe a reprimand is appropriate - a sanction that would permit Gingrich to retain his powerful post.

Gingrich, under an agreement with the ethics committee to keep silent for now, told reporters the meeting had gone "very well. I had a great time."

House Democratic leaders, meanwhile, considered plans to undermine Gingrich and prevent him from becoming the first Republican

speaker in 68 years to succeed himself. They circulated a plan to elect a temporary speaker until the ethics case against Gingrich is complete.

But Gingrich's biggest problem could be from party members who said they would vote for someone else. The defectors were Republicans Linda Smith of Washington, Tom Campbell of California, Mark Neumann of Wisconsin, Michael Forbes of New York and Jim Leach of Iowa. Leach, just elected to an 11th term, is the House Banking Committee chairman.

"He will take all the focus off the positive agenda and on to him," Smith said of Gingrich. "He made a bad judgment call."

State lawmakers optimistic about \$83.2 million budget

AUSTIN (AP) - Legislators have rolled out an \$83.2 billion state budget proposal, with top budget writers and Gov. George W. Bush saying they remain optimistic about giving Texans some property tax relief.

The Legislature's top two budget writers - Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, and Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo - described the latest budget as "bare bones."

The proposal calls for 60.1 percent of state funds to be spent on education, 11.2 percent on law enforcement and prisons, and 20.4 percent on health and human services programs.

"Those three items make up 91.7 percent of the budget. So about 8 percent goes to fund everything else that the state does," Ratliff said Monday.

"Most of those items in those three categories, most people would like to see us spend more for. I do think it indicates that the Legislature's priorities are in the right place," he said.

The \$83.2 billion preliminary total - which would include both state and federal funds - compares with a 1996-97 spending plan of \$79.9 billion.

The proposal is a starting point for lawmakers.



Photo by Mauri Montgomery

Fireflies?

A security light silhouettes the softly falling snow which blanketed Hereford early Tuesday morning. Snow flurries are expected

to continue through Wednesday with daytime temperatures holding below freezing.

Peruvian rebels hold 74 remaining hostages

Dawn gunfire rocks embassy

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Gunfire was heard before dawn today at the Japanese ambassador's residence where Peruvian rebels have been holding 74 hostages for three weeks.

Photographer Scott Dalton, who was on the rooftop of a house across the street from the residence, said several photographers staking out the complex were startled about 4 a.m. by what sounded like a gunshot.

Dalton, who was working for The Associated Press, said the noise seemed to be coming from inside the compound and sounded like at least one explosion, followed by an echo or another detonation.

Police said the mystery sounds appeared to be automatic weapons fire but said they had no reports of any injuries.

It was the second time since the standoff began Dec. 17 that there has been a detonation inside the compound. The last time such an explosion occurred was Dec. 26, and it was blamed on one of the ambassador's dogs, which tripped a land mine and was killed.

Rebels have said they have mined approaches to the massive residence, which they took over during a gala cocktail party.

Chances for a dialogue that would end the hostage crisis appear to be fading, after the government choked off all official information and prevented rebel contact with the outside.

The government's chief negotiator,

who has met with the rebels only once since they took over the residence, told El Comercio newspaper that the government will not meet them again without a "clear sign" that the rebels want dialogue.

Each side is blaming the other for the lack of progress.

A high-ranking Peruvian official speaking on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press that the government is content "to wait until they get bored."

Bit by bit, the rebels have released many of the 500 hostages they initially captured.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Arambar met with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori for more than an hour Monday.

Bolivia holds four jailed Tupac Amaru rebels arrested for the 1995 kidnapping of a businessman, but says it will not barter them for freedom for its ambassador to Peru. That diplomat, Jorge Gumucio, is one of the hostages and is believed to be in poor health.

Peru has said it will not use force to end the crisis, but the stalemate is raising fears that the government may rethink that stance if nothing else works.

"There have been miscarriages on the guerrillas' side and also on the Peruvian government's side," Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaru Hashimoto told the Kyodo news agency in Japan. "It will be a protracted war. I am worried about

an unexpected accident."

Japan says it opposes the use of force, and in theory it has the last word because the embassy residence is technically Japanese territory.

Mirroring Fujimori's intransigence, the rebels have shown no flexibility on their main demand that

some 300 fellow revolutionaries be freed from Peruvian jails.

The rebels have released no hostages since Wednesday. Their most recent statement came Saturday as messages were scrawled on bed sheets and hung from the residence roof.

Bullock favors vote on state property tax

AUSTIN (AP) - It might be a good idea to allow Texans to vote on school property tax relief, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock says.

At least, Bullock said Monday, that's what he'd favor if he were the reformer leading the charge for reform.

"I never have been one to submit to the vote of the people something that the Legislature was responsible for doing," Bullock said. "But ... throughout the country today there is a demand for a greater voice from our constituency in some legislative areas, and this might be one of them."

"I believe if I were the governor, I would like to put on the ballot the entire issue," he said.

Gov. George W. Bush, who has called for reducing the approximately \$10 billion a year in school property taxes, is open to the ballot

idea, said his spokeswoman, Karen Hughes.

"He welcomes the lieutenant governor's idea and thinks it's an interesting one," Ms. Hughes said. "He believes that some part of the plan may have to be on the ballot because it may involve a constitutional change."

For example, changing property owners' tax exemption for their homestead would require a constitutional amendment. Changing the constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and approval of Texans on a statewide ballot.

A constitutional amendment vote on the homestead exemption or another issue "could be viewed as a referendum on the plan itself as well," Ms. Hughes said.

(See BULLOCK, Page 2)

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Local Roundup

Hospital board sets meeting

Directors of the Deaf Smith County Hospital District will hold a board meeting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the board room at Hereford Regional Medical Center. There are no discussion items on the open meeting agenda. The board is expected to go into closed session to discuss possible lease or purchase of a medical building.

Koobraey is Thursday

Hereford High School yearbook staff has announced that Koobraey '97 will be held at the high school auditorium Thursday. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and close at 7 p.m. sharp. Admission is \$3. During the assembly, Mr. and Miss HHS and the Class Favorites will be announced.

AC sets registration

Amarillo College will conduct registration for Hereford classes from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Hereford High School. For more information, call 806-371-5030 in Amarillo, or contact Steve Reyna in Hereford at 363-7625.

Support Group plans meeting

The Hereford-Deaf Smith Small Business Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the San Jose Community Center. There are no membership fees, and everyone interested in starting or expanding a small business is invited to attend.

Fund established

A special fund has been established at Avenue Baptist Church for the family of Doug and Anna Beth Roming, formerly Anna Beth Friemel of Hereford. They lost their belongings and home in Canyon in a fire on Jan. 3. Contributions can be made at the Avenue Baptist Church office between 8:15 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Chance of more snow

Hereford's high temperature was 28 degrees on Monday and an overnight low of 21 degrees, according to KPAN Radio. The station also recorded one inch of snow and 0.06 of an inch of precipitation. The forecast for Tuesday night calls for cloudy and continued cold with a few flurries late. The low will be 15 to 20. Wednesday will be cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light snow. The high will be in the mid 30s. The wind will become northwest, 10 to 15 mph.

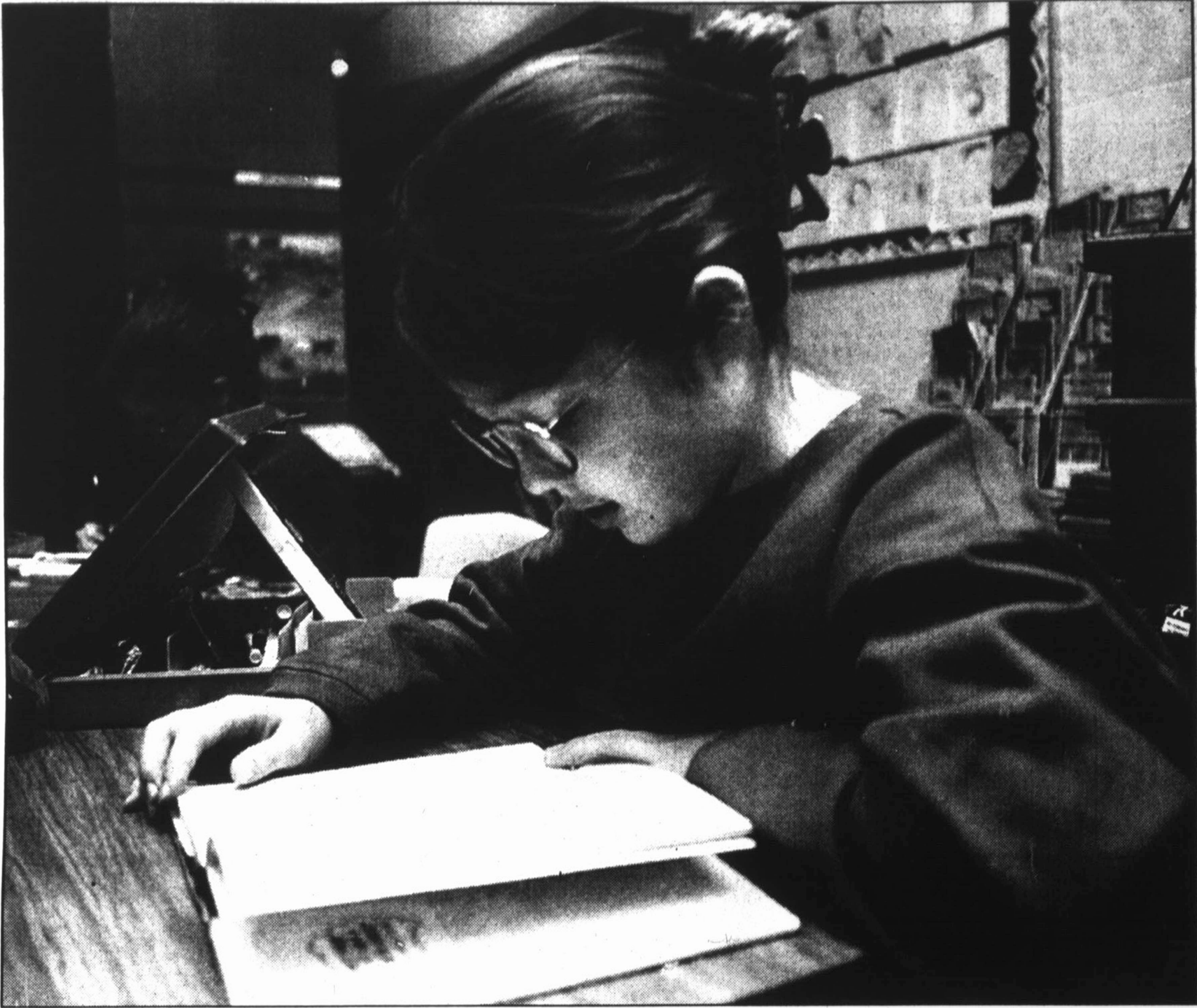


Photo by Sherri Martin

Back to class

Kaeli Urbanczyk, a fifth-grader at St. Anthony's Catholic School, reads a book in the library on Monday. Hereford students returned to classes after a two-week holiday break. Urbanczyk is the daughter of Randy and Cathy Broman.

Merger results in new land bank

First Texas Federal Land Bank Association became a reality for Panhandle, South Plains and West Texas farmers, ranchers and agribusinessmen across a 40-county territory on Jan. 1, according to a press release.

First Texas is the result of a merger between the Federal Land Bank Associations of Childress, Dalhart, Lamesa, Levelland, Littlefield, Lubbock, Muleshoe and Spur and the Westex Federal Land Bank Association of Dimmitt.

The association will make and service long term real estate credit through local, full service credit offices in the following locations where existing Land Bank Associations are maintained: Childress, Dalhart, Lamesa, Levelland, Littlefield, Muleshoe, Spur, Crosbyton, Dimmitt, Hereford and Tulia.

The current office for the Lubbock Association will become the corporate headquarters of First Texas. John E. Morris, formerly chief executive officer of the Westex FLBA of Dimmitt, will serve as chief executive officer of the Association and Randy c. Breiting, formerly CEO of the FLBA in Dalhart, will join First Texas as executive vice president.

Ed Crawford will continue to serve customers in Castro, Deaf Smith, Parmer (part) and Swisher counties as president of the Hereford, Dimmitt and Tulia credit offices. In this capacity, he will be responsible for all loan and loan servicing functions in those counties.

"In all respects, this was clearly a merger of equals, produced from a position of unparalleled financial strength in order to better serve the current member-borrowers, as well as meet the credit demands of future members of our system," Morris said.

"That such an organization of this magnitude could be put together is a tremendous compliment to the boards and management of the former Associations, as well as stockholders of each institution," he said.

Stockholders of each of the Associations overwhelmingly approved the merger in early November, and final regulatory approval was received in December.

Through the merger process, the merging Associations have been guided by an eighteen-member steering committee who will become the permanent board upon the completion of the merger.

Keith Vandivere of Brownfield will serve as chairman of the steering committee. He also served as chairman of the board of directors of the Levelland Association. Roy Carlson of Hereford serves as vice chairman of the committee, as well as serving as the chairman of the Westex Association.

Mergering nine different corporate operations into one has been a difficult, time consuming process, Breiting said. But the timing was right for such a change.

"Changes such as these can be best made from a position of strength and not weakness, and the Association now enjoys the strongest financial position and credit quality in its history within the system," he said.

Vandivere said borrower service and local credit decisions will remain the responsibility of the same people customers have dealt with in the past.

"We are fortunate to have an experienced credit staff who have performed admirably in the past, and are well aware of what it takes to be successful in the agricultural lending industry," he said.

"By centralizing the administrative burdens, they will have more time to work more closely with our customers, develop more business and function in an expedient and timely manner for the benefit of those who need long-term credit," Vandivere said.

Obituaries

DELIA A. GUERRERO

Jan. 5, 1997



Delia A. Guerrero, 31, of Hereford, died Sunday.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Rix Chapel with Deacon Jesse Guerrero of San Jose Catholic Church, officiating. A rosary will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Rix Chapel. Burial will be in West Park Cemetery by Rix Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Guerrero was born in 1965 in Burlington, Wis. She was a cashier at Allsup's for 1-1/2 years.

Survivors include her husband, Rodolfo Guerrero; two daughters, Roxanne and Cristina Guerrero, both of Hereford; her parents, Mario and Belia Flores of Hereford; a sister, Belia Heuilar of Hereford; two brothers, Carlos Flores of Boise Idaho and Mario Flores Jr. of Hereford.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

ROBERT J. LUEB

Jan. 4, 1997

Robert J. Lueb, 63, of Hereford, died Saturday.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Rest Lawn Cemetery with Msgr. Orville Blum, pastor of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Gililand-Watson Funeral Home.

Mr. Lueb was born in Hereford. He married Ruth Frederick in 1968.

He was an accountant at Champion Feeders and a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church. He had served in the Army.

Survivors include his wife; a brother, Raymond Lueb of Hereford; and a sister, Alice Lueb of Hereford.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite local charity.

WILLIAM A. WARREN

Jan. 5, 1997

William A. Warren, 80, of Woodward, Okla., formerly of Hereford, died Sunday.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in St. Peter's Catholic Church with the Rev. Ed Menasco officiating. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery by Zwanziger/Stecher Funeral Home. A vigil will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the church.

Mr. Warren was born in 1916 and attended school in Waterflow, N.M. He married Agnes W. Schmuecker in 1944 in Hereford. He and his brother had a car dealership for several years in Hereford.

He moved to Woodward in 1953, where he opened an appliance store.

in 1970. He retired in 1983. Warren also was involved in the Dale Carnegie Course. He was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Warren was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Dennis Warren of Houston and Don Warren of Austin; two daughters, Ginger Lewis of Midland and Mary Hunter of Woodward; one brother, John Warren of Austin; two sisters, Sister Ancilla Marie Warren of Maple Mount, Ky. and Sister Mary Edger Warren of Calvert City, Ky.; and seven grandchildren.

MARGARET THOMAS

Jan. 4, 1997

Margaret "Lorene" Thomas, 68, of Amarillo, died Saturday. Her brother, Lawrence Bennett resides in Hereford.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Monday in San Jacinto Baptist Church with the Rev. Stan Coffey of the church officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery's Garden of Prayer by Memorial Park Funeral Home.

Mrs. Thomas was born in Roberts County and moved to Amarillo in 1970, from Liberal, Kan. She married James B. Thomas in 1946 in Tulia. She was the founder and operator of

Heartbeat Tape Ministry for 20 years in San Jacinto Baptist Church, where she was a member. She retired in 1996.

She was preceded in death by a son, Randy Everett Thomas.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Jim W. Thomas of Wichita, Kan.; a daughter, Linda Van Camp of Amarillo; a brother, Lawrence Bennett of Hereford; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be made to San Jacinto Baptist Church Heartbeat Tape Ministry.

BULLOCK

Bullock said several key questions must be answered in the debate over school property tax relief, including:

- Deciding what other taxes would be raised to make up the money lost to lower property taxes;
- Distribution of such funds, which Bullock said would involve a look at the current system for transferring some property tax wealth from richer to poorer school districts, known as the "Robin Hood" approach; and
- Ensuring property owners receive the local tax break that lawmakers intend for them to get.

Lawmakers who represent districts affected by the share-the-wealth provisions of the school funding system will have an opportunity to propose alternatives, Bullock said.

The provisions were passed in order to meet a court order to make school funding more equitable statewide.

"A lot of the legislators ... have been extremely critical of the 'Robin Hood' approach. I myself have never liked the idea," Bullock said.

Emergency Services

ACTIVITIES REPORTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES:

POLICE DEPARTMENT SUNDAY

- 19-year-old male arrested for unlawful carrying a weapon and possession of a controlled substance on Park Avenue and Avenue A.
- 27-year-old female arrested for traffic citations on South 25 Mile Avenue and Bradley Street.
- Assault reported in the 400 block of Ross Street.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 400 block of Avenue B.
- Criminal mischief reported in the 300 block of Irving.
- Prowler reported in the 400 block of West Park Avenue.
- One curfew violation issued.
- One unrestrained child citation issued.
- One speeding citation issued.
- Nine other citations issued.

MONDAY

- Disorderly conduct reported in the 200 block of Kingwood.
- Assault reported in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.
- Runaway reported in the 300 block of South Texas.
- Criminal mischief reported in the 400 block of East 15th Street.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 200 block of Aspen.
- One citation was issued.

TUESDAY

- Theft of a pile of fireplace rocks

reported in the 100 block of Beach.

- 18-year-old male treated and released at Hereford Regional Medical Center for self-inflicted wounds.
- 10 traffic citations issued.
- Two motor vehicle accidents without injuries.

The following information is being released to The Brand by state law on a newly registered child sex offender:

1. The offender lives in the 700 block of 13th Street.
2. The offender lives in the city limits of Hereford.
3. The offender zip code is 79045.
4. The offender is a 20-year-old female.
5. The offender's offense is "sexual assault of a child."

The following information is being released to The Brand by state law on a newly registered child sex offender:

1. The offender lives in the 1400 block of East First Street.
 2. The offender lives in the city limits of Hereford.
 3. The offender zip code is 79045.
 4. The offender is a 22-year-old male.
 5. The offender's offense is "sexual assault of a child."
- FIRE DEPARTMENT WEEKEND**
- No calls.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WEEKEND

- 19-year-old female arrested for assault.
- Domestic dispute reported.
- Theft reported.
- Motor vehicle accident reported.
- Responded to a call for CPR assistance.

Crime Stoppers

Anyone having information which leads to the arrest and indictment in the CRIME OF THE WEEK can receive a reward of up to \$1,000.

The Hereford police are investigating a shooting which occurred on Dec. 16, 1996. The shooting occurred at 10:36 p.m. in the 200 block of Avenue F, where the suspect used a .762 calibre rifle and fired several shots into the Hereford High School building. After shots were fired, a yellow or brown colored Monte Carlo vehicle was seen leaving the area to the south.

Anyone having any information about the CRIME OF THE WEEK or any other criminal activity is urged to call the CLUE LINE at 365-CLUE (2583).

All callers may remain anonymous by using a code name or number.

LOTTO TEXAS
TEXAS LOTTERY

By The Associated Press

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated \$12 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were:
5-6-11-17-40-50
Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$18 million.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4-8-0

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:
11-29-34-37-38

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery:
8-5-9

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Lifestyles

LOGOS Program to commence locally at Presbyterian church



January displayer

Dee Sturges is displaying two of her numerous collections at the Deaf Smith County Library this month. In addition to unusual printer's plates used to print Sears and Roebuck catalogues around the turn of the century, she has arrow heads and ceremonial points and knives made by Native American James L. Jack. Sturges supplies various natural items such as horns, hides and feathers to be used in the making of these interesting and beautiful pieces of Native American lore. See related photo on Page 7.

"Many folks believe children and youth are the future of the church. The folks at First Presbyterian Church in Hereford believe they are the church of today," Rev. Jeremy Grant said.

Because of this understanding, Grant added, First Presbyterian is excited to announce the commencement of the LOGOS program for children from 4-years-old to high school youth on Jan. 15.

The LOGOS System, the organization which trains churches to host a LOGOS program, started in 1957. Now it has grown to more than 11,000 churches and more than 25 denominations, including Nazarene, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist.

The LOGOS Program has been described as the fun of summer camp, according to Grant. Students study about being a disciple of Christ in the Bible class and practice being a follower of Jesus during the other three parts of the evening: playtime, family time (which includes a family-

style meal), and worship skills.

The only rule of LOGOS, which emphasizes Christian relationships, is "Everyone is to treat everyone else as a child of God."

"The LOGOS Program meets on Wednesday nights in order to 'refresh' our memories about what being a Christian is all about between Sundays," Grant said.

"In the knowledge that our children and youth are a vital part of the church and face great challenges from peers and society, over 20 members of First Presbyterian Church are prepared for the opening night of the LOGOS Program," he added.

Parents offer the main support and encouragement for children. As such, parents are encouraged to participate in the program as well, showing that they desire their children to grow in faith and church participation.

At least one parent is required to attend a Parents' Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church.

An alternative meeting with the pastor will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 12. The first meeting will provide information, an opportunity to meet the LOGOS staff, and fun.

The LOGOS Program begins at 5 p.m. on Jan. 15 for primary and elementary children, and at 5:30 p.m. for junior high and high school youth.

Some of the upcoming themes for the 14-week program include "Super Bowl Party," "Breakfast Club," "Backwards Night," and "One Color Night."

First Presbyterian Church is located at 610 Lee Street, one block west of Main Street.

For more information, please call 364-2471 or 364-0745. The church will mail supplemental information on request.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Transportation is available for children, but remember that the Parents' Meeting is required for registration.

Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: A recent bad experience in trying to repair a relatively new (1990), brand-name color TV/VCR prompts me to warn others.

Before purchasing a TV, call a local repairperson to see if he or she can get parts for that brand. I was surprised to find that parts aren't readily available for all makes, parts aren't necessarily interchangeable among brands and a manufacturer may not make parts at all!

Also, ask how speedy the payment to the repairperson from the manufacturer. If a shop has to wait for six months to get paid for labor for a TV under warranty, that shop is going to be reluctant to fix your TV.

What may seem like a bargain may turn out to be costly and aggravating. Call a repairperson first — they know the truth to a greater degree than most consumers about what's going on behind the screen. — Crystal Dawn Eagle, Roswell, N.M.

LONG SHOELACES

Dear Heloise: Shoelaces too long? Cut them off to the length you choose and stick the bottom half-inch end in the stuff that women put on their fingernails to harden them: clear, thick fluid that comes with a little dip brush in the stopper.

Allow an hour or two to harden and you have new usable, nonmetal tips. — Brudus Meyerson, Dallas

Nail products are great for a lot of nonbeauty hints. Glad you wrote. — Heloise

PLASTIC NEWSPAPER SLEEVES

Dear Heloise: Here's a hint I haven't seen before in your column. Each day, I tie the plastic sleeves that the daily paper comes in end to end. By recycling day, I have a "rope" long enough to bundle up the week's newspapers and discarded magazines into a neat stack. — Mrs. Carolyn Rouse, New Orleans

HAS THE MAIL COME YET? Dear Heloise: My helpful hint: As a signal that the mail has been deliv-

ered to my country-style mailbox, at the side of its pull-down door, I insert a small white twist tie, which falls to the ground when the mail carrier opens the door. — Jewel W. Wright, Greencastle, Ind.

Dear Heloise: Here's a tip for traveling men. Left home without a shoehorn? Try an ordinary credit card. It works well. — A New Orleans Reader

FAST FACTS

Before throwing away an old ice cooler, see if one of these ideas can help you recycle it.

- Put it in the car trunk to hold groceries.
- Use as a planter.
- Use to store dog food.
- Store small electric tools in it.
- Store a craft project in a cooler.

Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I have four children, all grown up, married and on their own. They were quite a handful to raise, but they turned out great.

I have a fond recollection of a column you printed a few years back about the joys of having kids. Our two oldest children now have kids of their own, and I think they would appreciate a good laugh. Will you please run that column again? — Reader in Gary, Ind.

Dear Reader: It's one of my all-time favorites, too. Thank you for asking. Musings of a Good Father on a Bad Day

There's nothing sadder than the childless couple. It breaks your heart to see them stretched out, relaxing around swimming pools in Florida and California, suntanned and miserable on the decks of boats, trotting off to enjoy Europe like lonesome fools -- with money to spend, time to enjoy themselves and nothing to worry about.

Childless couples become so selfish and wrapped up in their own concerns that you feel sorry for them. They don't fight over the kids' discipline. They miss all the fun of "doing without" for the child's sake. It's a pathetic sight.

Everyone should have children. No one should be allowed to escape the wonderful experiences attached to each stage in the development of the young. The happy memories of those early years -- saturated mattresses, waiting for sitters who don't show, midnight asthma attacks, rushing to the emergency room of the hospital

to get the kid's head stitched up.

Then comes the payoff -- when the child grows from a little acorn into a real nut. What can equal the warm smile of a small lad with the sun glittering on \$1,500 worth of braces -- ruined by peanut brittle -- or the frolicking, carefree voices of 20 hysterical savages running amok at a birthday party?

How sad not to have children to brighten your cocktail parties -- massaging potato chips into the rug and wrestling with guests for the olives in their martinis.

How empty is the home without challenging problems that make for a well-rounded life -- and an early breakdown; the end-of-day report from Mother, related like strategically placed blows to the temple; the tender, thoughtful discussions when the report card reveals that your senior son is a moron.

Children are worth every moment of anxiety, every sacrifice. You know it the first time you take your son hunting. He didn't mean to shoot you in the leg. Remember how he cried? How sorry he was? So disappointed you weren't a deer. Those are the memories a man treasures.

Think back to that night of romantic adventure, when your budding, beautiful daughter eloped with the village idiot. What childless couple ever shares in such a wonderful growing experience? Could a woman without children equal the strength and heroism of your wife when she tried to fling herself out of the bedroom window? Only a father could have the courage

to stand by -- ready to jump after her.

The childless couple lives in a vacuum. They try to fill their lonely lives with dinner dates, theater, golf, tennis, swimming, civic affairs and trips all over the world.

The emptiness of life without children is indescribable.

See what the years have done. He looks boyish, unlined and rested. She is slim, well-groomed and youthful. It isn't natural. If they had kids, they'd look like the rest of us -- tired, gray, wrinkled and haggard. In other words, normal.

Ann Landers' booklet, "Nuggets and Doozies," has everything from the outrageously funny to the poignantly insightful. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Nuggets, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.25.)

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Hospital Notes

Report from Hereford Regional Medical Center on Jan. 7:

Admissions: Ethelene High, George Paschel, Sara Morquecho.

Discharges: Audrey Cabezuola, Heriberto Martinez, Sidney Ward, Loy Loanman.

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Regular registration is 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8 at Hereford High School. Contact Severo Reyna at 363-7625.



CORRECTED Course Title	Day	Time	Instructor
Accounting Principles I	M	6:30-10:10	Marion Cotton
Business Law I	M	7-9:45	Severo Reyna
Human Anatomy and Physiology II	TT	7-9:45	Scott Whitaker
Secretarial Accounting	TBA	TBA	Carol Carter
Computer Concepts	W	7:15-10	Amy Cole
Computer Concepts Laboratory	W	5:10-7	Amy Cole
Microcomputer Applications	M	5:30-8:20	Staff
Basic Grammar I	TT	7-8:20	Staff
Basic Writing I	TT	8:30-9:45	Staff
Freshman Composition II	Tu	7-9:45	Cheri Zinck
Government of the U. S.	W	7-9:45	Severo Reyna
History of the United States II	M	7-9:45	Malcolm Machee
Basic Algebra I	W	7-9:45	Becky Weatherly
Organizational Behavior	M	7-9:45	Willie Weaver
Coop Management Training	M	6-6:50	Willie Weaver
Child Psychology	Tu	7-9:45	Katherine Claypool
Reading Techniques I	M	7-9:45	Judith Wall
Reading Techniques II	M	7-9:45	Judith Wall
Public Speaking	Th	7-9:45	Don Abel

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Sports

Hereford teams host Randall in key tilts

Lady Whitefaces battling for second place in 1-4A

Hereford's varsity basketball teams host the Randall Raiders in an important District 1-4A doubleheader tonight.

The Lady Whitefaces play at 6 p.m., and the boys' game will start about 7:30 p.m., weather permitting. JV games are set at 6 p.m. for the boys and 7:30 p.m. for the girls.

The Lady Whitefaces will be battling for second place in the standings, as they and the Lady Raiders are both 4-1 in district action. The Canyon girls lead the way at 5-0 and 20-0 for the season.

Hereford's boys could also get a share of second place with a win over the visiting first-place Raiders. The Raiders are 4-0 in league play, while Caprock is 3-1 and Canyon and Hereford are 2-1. The Herd is 10-12 for the season.

Caprock had a non-district game with Hobbs tonight, while Canyon takes on Pampa.

The Lady Whitefaces extended their record to 15-5 Saturday night with a 65-33 win here over Hobbs.

More top players decide to go pro

By The Associated Press
Offensive tackle Orlando Pace of Ohio State and defensive end Peter Boulware of Florida State never bumped into each other in college. That could change next season - in the NFL.

The two All-Americans both said Monday they will pass up their senior years in college to turn pro.

Three other prominent players made the same decision - defensive back Shawn Springs of Ohio State, running back Darnell Autry of Northwestern and All-American cornerback Chris Canty of Kansas State.

Pace, who could be the No. 1 pick in the draft, and Springs said Ohio State's Rose Bowl victory over previously unbeaten Arizona State was a major factor in their decisions.

"What better way to go out than with a win?" the 6-foot-6, 330-pound Pace said. "I did everything I wanted to do. It's time for me to move on."

Pace, the only two-time winner of

N.M. Catie Betzen scored 15 points and Misti Davis had 13 in the non-district game.

Hereford had four players in double figures, as Julie Rampley and Briar Baker also chipped in 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Hereford jumped to a 20-4 advantage in the first quarter and led the New Mexico team by 40-13 at halftime. Hereford also had an easy time of it in the junior varsity contest, rolling to a 66-22 victory. Valerie Guzman sparked Hereford with 34 points, and Nicole Albracht had 11.

Both Hereford's boys and girls scored impressive wins at Pampa last Thursday. Another doubleheader is scheduled here Friday night when the Canyon Eagles comes to town.

A Hereford JV girls' team played in the consolation finals of the Amherst Tournament Saturday, losing to the host Amherst team by a 56-35 score. Gowan led Hereford in scoring with 9 points and Blakely added 7.

District 1-4A Standings

TEAM	DIST. 1-4A BOYS DIST.	SEASON
Randall	4-0	17-4
Caprock	3-1	12-9
Canyon	2-1	13-9
Hereford	2-1	10-12
Pampa	1-2	7-14
Dumas	0-3	8-10
Borger	0-4	6-11

TEAM	DIST. 1-4A GIRLS DIST.	SEASON
Canyon	5-0	20-0
Hereford	4-1	15-5
Randall	4-1	14-6
Pampa	2-3	9-10
Borger	1-4	6-17
Dumas	1-4	4-12
Caprock	1-5	9-13

Weekend Sports briefs

By The Associated Press

FOOTBALL

DETROIT (AP) - Northwestern coach Gary Barnett will reportedly interview for the Detroit Lions' coaching position. The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press said Monday that Barnett agreed to meet with Lions vice chairman William Clay Ford Jr. and chief executive officer Chuck Schmidt.

BASEBALL

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Mike Devereaux, a 33-year-old outfielder who hit .229 with eight homers and 34 RBIs for Baltimore last year, agreed to a one-year contract Saturday with Texas.

BASKETBALL

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - Freshman Lester Earl, LSU's No. 2 scorer and No. 3 rebounder, has been dismissed for violation of team rules.

GOLF

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) - Results Sunday of the \$3.65 million Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf, played on the Grayhawk Golf Club's 7,001-yard, par-72 Talon Course:

Championship (36 holes)
Greg Norman, Australia, def. Scott Hoch, United States, 1-up.
Third Place (18 holes)
Hisayuki Sasaki, Japan, def. Sam Torrance, Scotland, 2 and 1.

Providence wins 6th in row; Kansas whips Longhorns

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - Four weeks ago, Providence coach Pete Gillen was exasperated when his team was embarrassed in a 17-point loss to in-state rival Rhode Island, and the Friars' record dropped to 5-3.

Gillen's team appeared selfish and unmotivated, and preseason predictions of its first NCAA tournament berth in three years seemed farfetched.

Not anymore. The Friars (11-3, 3-1 Big East) have won six straight games, beating Wisconsin on the road and winning at home last week against then-No. 18 Texas and St. John's.

On Monday night, the Friars played their best game of the season, thrashing No. 8 Villanova 91-68.

"We just couldn't have played a lot better than we did tonight," Gillen said. "I thought we were improving subtly, but I certainly didn't expect to beat a team like Villanova by 20 points. I thought we were getting better, but I never dreamed we would win a game like this by this margin."

Providence used a 15-0 run that straddled halftime to build a 48-29 lead, and Villanova (11-2, 3-1) got no closer than 16 points the rest of the way.

Austin Croshere had 27 points and 10 rebounds and Ruben Garces added a career-high 19 points for Providence, while Derrick Brown scored 18 points, Jamel Thomas 14 and point guard God Shammgod added 11 assists against only one turnover.

Villanova, which shot 38 percent from the field, was led by freshman Tim Thomas' 17 points. Jason Lawson and Alvin Williams, who averaged a combined 29 points, were held to a total of 12 and were benched most of the second half.

"They played really hard and we didn't respond as a team," Williams said. "I take a lot of the blame as the captain and point guard. I didn't run the team like I was supposed to."

In other games involving ranked teams on Monday night, it was No. 1 Kansas 86, No. 22 Texas 61; and No. 14 Louisville 92, North Carolina Charlotte 81.

Villanova entered the game averaging 11 more rebounds than its opponents, but the Friars dominated inside, particularly on the offensive end, where they held a 19-13 advantage. Garces, a muscular 6-foot-9 center, had seven offensive rebounds.

Providence, which lost to Villanova by 11 points earlier in the season, took a 14-4 lead as the cold-shooting Wildcats made only one field goal in the first 8:13. The Friars increased the lead to 20-9 on a between-the-legs pass from Corey Wright to Garces for a dunk.

Villanova clawed back behind Thomas, who made four straight free throws, then added a 3-pointer that was followed by a short hook by Lawson to cut the deficit to 30-26 at 2:54.

Providence's next two games are on the road against conference foes Seton Hall and Miami. How the Friars fare will be a measure of how far they have come in the last month, Croshere said.

"These next two games are very big for us," he said. "And a lot of it will have to do with how we handle the success and how we practice the next couple of days."

No. 1 Kansas 86, No. 22 Texas 61
The Jayhawks (14-0, 2-0 Big 12) struggled again with their shooting, but held Texas to one field goal in the final 9:12. The visiting Longhorns (7-4, 1-1) led 41-39 with 14:27 to play, but Kansas went on a 15-3 run and pulled away. Paul Pierce had 17 points for Kansas, and Raef LaFrentz added 15. Reggie Freeman led Texas with 22 points. The Jayhawks, who shot 29 percent in its 62-59 victory over Kansas State on Saturday, missed their first seven shots and at one point were just 3-of-17 from the field. The Jayhawks finished the first half shooting 24 percent (7-of-29).

No. 14 Louisville 92, N.C. Charlotte 81
DeJuan Wheat scored 21 points and the Cardinals (12-1, 2-0 Conference USA) improved on their best start in 22 years while moving coach Denny Crum within one victory of 600 for his career. DeMarco Johnson had 27 points and nine rebounds for the 49ers (8-4, 0-1), who lost for the first time in six games in their new Dale F. Halton Arena.

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TEXAS

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YMCA MEN'S 5 ON 5 BASKETBALL

The YMCA Men's Basketball League is designed for men (no age limit) to show their athletic ability in b-ball games and to try their hand in winning a trophy. (1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place). Length of the league will be 6 weeks plus double elimination tournament. The team captain or manager will be responsible for the collection of the entry fee and to have all players listed on the roster in accordance with league guidelines by the start of the third game of the league. Out of town residents may participate in the league. Players must play at least 1/3 of the regular season games to be eligible for the tournament. Games will have 2 referees paid and scheduled by the YMCA.

Sign-up Deadline: Tuesday, January 7th, 1997 at 3:00 pm

Starting Date: Games will be played on Sundays starting at 1:00 pm, First game will be Sunday, January 12th.

Entry Fee: \$270.00 per team (Teams will not be entered until fee is turned in)

Uniforms: Teams may provide their own or use pullovers provided by the YMCA.

Unsportsman-like Conduct Penalties:

- 1) 1 warning; 2nd one out of the game
- 2) 2nd time out of the game and out of the league
- 3) Cheapshots or undercutting or any unnecessary play that could cause serious injury shall result in immediate ejection from the game. (Consumation of alcohol will not be tolerated)

Rosters will be available at game site. Individual players must have name on roster and be properly registered with their team before playing. As soon as a player participates in a league game they shall be deemed as starting the season. There will be no grace period. Team may start with 3 players, if they are not present then it will be called as a forfeit. Anytime players on the court or on the bench join an altercation that team/teams shall forfeit.

Teams arriving without enough players to field a team may enlist temporary substitutes in order to field a team. The game will be a forfeit but this will allow those present the enjoyment of playing. If there is an odd number of teams, one team will play twice on game day. Intentional foul will be 2 free shots and ball out of bounds.

If you have questions please call the YMCA at... **364-6990** "A United Way Agency"

Jaguars, Panthers eye 'Expansion Bowl'

By BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

Think of all the memorable matchups in the Super Bowl. America's Team vs. the Steel Curtain. The Poise and Pride Raiders against the Hogs and Smurfs from Washington, Montana and Marino.

Now try this: the Jacksonville Jaguars vs. the Carolina Panthers. The Expansion Bowl.

If the second-year teams win in Sunday's conference championships, they'll meet in New Orleans on Jan. 26. Unbelievable? Well, the odds at the outset of the season were

300,000-1 against it.

"We beat everybody to get to this point," said Jaguars tackle Tony Boselli, whose outstanding play has helped Jacksonville reach the AFC title game at New England. Carolina is at Green Bay for the NFC crown.

"If they don't like it... we deserve to be here because we won. The Panthers had a great regular season, we had an all right regular season, good enough to get in. Now we're both playing good football in the playoffs.

"Green Bay is playing good football. So is New England. Why do they have more of a right to be there

than us? Because they've been in the league for 100 years or however long?"

"I think the four teams left all deserve to be here because they've all done what it takes to get to this point, and that's win."

The Jaguars won at Rich Stadium, where Buffalo had never lost a playoff game, and at Denver, which was 8-0 at home this season. They needed to win their final five regular-season games to get into the postseason, and they did. Now, they're one step from something really historic.

"At the beginning of the season,

if you asked any of our players about winning at Buffalo and Denver in the playoffs and then being in the AFC Championship game," Jaguars running back Natrone Means said, "a lot of us would have laughed at you. That was not on our minds.

"But down the stretch, when we had to win every week just to make the playoffs and we did it, we learned what it takes. So winning in the playoffs has been the same thing.

"We just want to ride this thing as far as we can."

So do the Panthers, who won the NFC West with a 12-4 record and have lost only eight of their last 28 games since they debuted with a five-game losing streak. All Carolina had to do was eliminate defending champion Dallas last weekend to reach the NFC showdown.

"When you're the new kid on the block, all you're going to hear people talking about is Dallas, San Francisco and Green Bay... and why not?" Panthers coach Dom Capers said.

"But one thing I do know is at the beginning of the year, I saw predictions that we'd win four, six, eight, nine games. I didn't see any 12s. Who knows? All I know is once you're in the tournament, anything can happen."

Such as the 100-1 Panthers and the 200-1 Jaguars defying the odds to get to the Expansion, uh, Super Bowl? "Certainly any time you're an underdog it's kind of like you've got something to prove," Panthers

quarterback Kerry Collins said. "If people don't think we can do it, we try to take the approach that we'll circle the wagons and we're the only ones who believe in ourselves."

Not everyone in the NFL is thrilled to see such quick success for the expansionists. Several team executives privately mention that the Panthers and Jaguars were afforded too many advantages by having the full \$37 million to spend when they started up; other teams already had huge chunks of the cap occupied by

previous contracts. The league also was generous with extra draft picks, rendering the expansion draft of has-beens and won't-bees as relatively meaningless.

Some of the nine coaches who lost their jobs since the beginning of the 1995 season partly blame the rise of the Jaguars and Panthers. Front offices have become impatient as they see second-year teams rush past them.

"The dynamics of the NFL have changed dramatically in the '90s,"

UConn ranked as top fem team; Tech moves to No. 7

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER
AP Sports Writer

A convincing victory over Tennessee kept Connecticut solidly entrenched at No. 1 today in The Associated Press women's basketball poll.

Connecticut (11-0) received 36 of 41 first-place votes from a media panel and had 1,019 points to lead a top six that was unchanged from last week.

The voting was done shortly after the Huskies overwhelmed defending national champion Tennessee 72-57 Sunday before a sellout crowd of 16,294 at the Hartford Civic Center, their fourth victory in five games with the Lady Vols.

Connecticut is one of just two NCAA Division I teams that's still unbeaten. The other is LSU (11-0), which broke into the Top 25 for the first time this season at No. 22.

No. 25 Florida also was new, returning after a four-week absence. Penn State and Nebraska dropped out, with Penn State ending a string of 112 weeks in the Top 25.

Second-ranked Old Dominion (11-1) and No. 3 Stanford (14-1) each received two first-place votes, Old Dominion finishing with 971 points and Stanford with 950.

Louisiana Tech (13-1) remained fourth with 905, Georgia (10-2) was fifth with 852 and Alabama (11-2)

Kansas No. 1; Georgia takes top 25 ranking

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

Tubby Smith took a veteran team to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament in his first season at Georgia. There were no expectations surrounding the Bulldogs this season, though, since five seniors from that team are gone.

Maybe there should have been. Georgia (11-2) broke into the Top 25 on Monday, debuting at No. 24 and replacing fellow Southeastern Conference member Arkansas.

"We feel very fortunate and proud to be considered in the Top 25," Smith said Monday. "It's certainly an honor, but we also realize the added responsibility that comes with being ranked. Everywhere we go, we've got a much bigger target on our chests."

Mississippi found the mark on Saturday, handing the Bulldogs their second loss of the season. That wasn't enough to offset what they had done earlier in the week, when they beat Maryland in overtime in the championship game of the Rainbow Classic.

"I certainly think our team has over-achieved so far," said Smith, whose team also lost to Georgia Tech. "We weren't really expecting to be a Top 25 team, at least not this early in the season. I can only hope that we continue to play as well as we've played."

Arkansas (6-4), which had been No. 22, lost at home to Mississippi and at Florida last week for its first 0-2 start since it joined the SEC six years ago.

Meanwhile, Kansas' first tight game of the season and Wake Forest's impressive wins over ranked teams combined to bring them the closest they have been in the six weeks as Nos. 1-2.

The Jayhawks (13-0) were still the runaway No. 1 choice, but the 62-59 victory over Kansas State, their first game this season decided by less than seven points, cost them five first-place votes.

Those in the national media panel who switched opted for Wake Forest (10-0), which beat then-No. 7 Utah 70-59 and then-No. 11 North Carolina 81-57 last week.

Kansas received 59 first-place votes and 1,739 points, while the Demon Deacons had 11 No. 1 votes and 1,685 points.

sixth with 828 and one first-place vote.

No. 7 Texas Tech and No. 8 Vanderbilt both moved up three places, Tennessee slipped one spot to ninth and Arkansas climbed three places to 10th.

Tennessee has five losses but all have to be to teams that are now in the Top Ten: Connecticut, Stanford, Louisiana Tech, Georgia and Arkansas. The Lady Vols play at Old Dominion on Tuesday night.

North Carolina State fell four places to 11th after a one-point loss

to Georgia Tech. Texas was 12th and Virginia 13th, followed by Duke, Kansas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Auburn, Western Kentucky and Clemson.

The last five spots were held by Notre Dame, LSU, Stephen F. Austin, DePaul and Florida.

LSU stayed unbeaten with a 73-63 victory over Kentucky on Sunday and made the Top 25 for the first time since the week of Jan. 19, 1992, when the Lady Tigers were 23rd. They've been especially good on the road this season, winning seven games.

Niekro only player voted into Baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) - For Hall of Fame voters, trying to assess Phil Niekro's career was just as baffling as trying to hit his knuckleball.

Kept out of the Hall in his first four years of eligibility, Niekro easily made it Monday. He was the only player elected, leaving fellow 300-game winner Don Sutton and former slugger Tony Perez to wait at least another year.

Sutton, on the ballot for the fourth time, fell nine votes short of the necessary 355. Sutton called Niekro to congratulate him.

"There's a guy who won 324 games, more than I have," Niekro said. "You try to figure that one out."

Niekro was the top vote-getter last year when no one was elected, with 68.3 percent. He never had come so close - he received 65.7 percent in his first year of eligibility in 1993, followed by 60 percent in 1994 and

62.1 percent in 1995.

Niekro, 318-274 in 24 seasons, mostly with the Braves, was at a loss to explain why he suddenly became so popular with the voters. Certainly his timing was good because of the strong crop of candidates coming up - Gary Carter in 1998 and then Nolan Ryan, George Brett, Robin Yount, Carlton Fisk and Dale Murphy in 1999.

Niekro pitched two seasons in Milwaukee, moved with the team to Atlanta from 1966-1983, and later pitched for the New York Yankees, Cleveland and Toronto. He made a final, farewell appearance for Atlanta in 1987 at age 48 and finished with a lifetime 3.35 ERA.

A five-time All-Star and a five-time Gold Glove winner, Niekro ranks 14th on baseball's career win list and is eighth in strikeouts (3,342). He is one of just 20 pitchers to win 300 games, and the only one to do it with a knuckleball.

Niekro holds virtually all of Atlanta's pitching records, including

wins (266), games (689) and shutouts (43). He also pitched the first no-hitter in Atlanta history, in 1973 against San Diego.


Sutton was 324-256 with a 3.26 ERA in 23 seasons, most of them with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Like Niekro, Sutton never won a Cy Young and had only one 20-win season.

Perez ranks 16th on baseball's career RBIs list with 1,652 - every player ahead of him is already in the Hall.

Ron Santo finished fourth with 186 votes, followed by Jim Rice with 178 and Steve Garvey with 167. Dave Parker did the best among the eight first-time candidates with 83.

Joe Torre (105 votes) and Dick Allen (79) were on the ballot for the 15th and final time. Ken Griffey and Bobby Bonds were among the players who did not receive 5 percent of the vote and were eliminated from future consideration.

Career hits leader Pete Rose, ineligible for election because he is on baseball's banned list, received 20 write-in votes.



YMCA Elementary Basketball

The YMCA Basketball League is designed for elementary boys and girls ages 13 and under. All girls and boys are eligible to play regardless of athletic ability. Teams are coached by adult volunteers. Every game is supervised and referees are provided. The league specializes in wholesome competition while teaching the fundamentals of team play and good sportsmanship. Every girl and boy plays in every game.

There will be three divisions: 8 & Under • 10 & Under • 13 & Under
Teams will be drawn at the YMCA Office
Division determined by age of participant on Sept. 1st, 1996.
PROOF OF AGE IS REQUIRED!
*Parents may choose to have their child play up a division based on child's athletic ability. (Please do not request players to be on certain teams)

Restrictions: Elementary grades only. **Exception:** Kindergarten children who meet the age requirements for the 8 & Under division.

Dates: Teams play and practice once a week after the season starts. Practice starts the week of Jan. 13th (depending on availability of gyms) and games begin Saturday, Jan. 18th.
*Coaches will be notified of game location and date of Coaches Meeting.

League Fee and Eligibility: League fee will be \$18.00. Additional children in same family \$15.00 each. All participants must be YMCA members.
YMCA Memberships for youth are \$25.00 a year.
(Partial memberships are available)
*****ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM!**

Equipment needed: Girls and boys supply their own shoes.
(Only tennis shoes will be permitted for play and practice)
All teams will wear pullovers provided by the YMCA.

Scholarships are available for those who need and qualify for assistance.
Contact Weldon or Norma Jean at 364-6990.
For any additional information or registration forms, please call...

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Movement within Catholic church aims to embrace native traditions

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) - Pulsing drumming, high-pitched, mystical chanting and the scent of sage are the first indications: The Saturday evening Mass at St. Peter's Church is atypical.

St. Peter's, on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, is at the forefront of a movement within the Catholic Church to embrace native traditions with a monthly liturgy that incorporates Lakota culture.

Brother George Maufort says the idea is to "integrate the culture into the worship as much as possible ... so people can own this as their church."

Reuben Fast Horse, who grew up on the Standing Rock reservation and was also part of the group that sought to bring the Lakota traditions into the Mass, wanted the church to have Indian depictions of Jesus.

While traveling, he had seen renderings of Jesus as a Hawaiian and, in Alabama, as a black.

"Why not us? Why can't we have a Native American image of Jesus Christ?" he asked.

Until religion and Jesus are depicted in Indian images, "Christianity will always be foreign ... will be the white man's religion," said the Rev. Martin Broken Leg, an Episcopalian priest and professor of Native American studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. "We can only approach Scripture out of who we are ourselves."

In addition to representing Jesus with different skin color and physical features, Broken Leg said the stories should be culturally adapted. For example, instead of depicting Jesus on the cross, he could be shown in a sundance ceremony, a ritual of personal offering, Broken Leg said. Phyllis White Eyes-DeCory is the

director of a Rapid City, S.D., task force working on a model for combining native traditions and Catholicism. The model includes using traditional incenses like sage, cedar and sweet grass; native music; and the sacred pipe ceremony, she said.

It is Lakota-oriented, but White Eyes-DeCory said the group is "pioneering this for all Native Americans."

The task force is awaiting approval of the model by the bishop of the Rapid City diocese.

"I hope it's like a prairie fire that will catch on and just burn all the way through; that each tribe will say, 'Hey, I've been missing this all of my life,'" she said.

"It's about time that we as native people are being recognized by the Vatican," White Eyes-DeCory said. "We shouldn't feel like stepchildren anymore."

The Rev. Casimir Paluck at St. Peter's said his congregation has doubled since adopting the Lakota liturgy. It is a way to repair the hurt done by the Catholic Church in the past, Paluck said.

That hurt raises the question: Why would Indians want to observe Catholicism?

"I have come across a number of folks that are quite puzzled that there isn't more hostility," Broken Leg said.

Religion was used by the U.S. government as a way to indoctrinate Indians, he said. Tribal members were forced to give up their way of life, their customs and even their language.

But once those traditional ways of life were destroyed, the church

became the easiest way to continue a spiritual way of life, Broken Leg said.

"Spirituality plays a really major role in Lakota life," Fast Horse said. Fast Horse, who is a culture teacher in Fort Yates, said he hopes by bringing an "Indian flavor" to Catholicism, he can identify more with the religion.

He observes Catholicism because it was important to his grandfather, he said, and because "when everything was dead or dying on the reservation ... the church seemed to be an outlet."

HOUSTON (AP) - Retired from show business, Johnny Carson can still make money from entertainment - at least indirectly.

The former king of late-night talk shows has sold an 80-acre parcel of land northwest of Houston to a company planning a \$40 million shopping center with a 30-screen movie complex, the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday.

The sale price wasn't disclosed. Carson has owned the site since the early 1980s, and waited out a severe local land value drop during the mid- and late '80s before making the sale in a vastly improved 1990s market.

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Paintings on display

Phyllis Askew's oil paintings are being displayed this month at the Deaf Smith County Library. She and her husband travel from Yellowstone National Park to Fredericksburg taking photographs of the beautiful scenery which, on her return home, she uses to create floral, landscape and wildlife paintings. Mrs. Askew began her training early in life at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, but her talent, she says, is inherited from her father who did pen and ink drawings around the turn of the century.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 1997. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1789, the first U.S. presidential election was held. Americans voted for electors who, a month later, chose George Washington to be the nation's first president.

On this date:

In 1610, the astronomer Galileo Galilei sighted four of Jupiter's moons.

In 1800, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, was born in Summerhill, N.Y.

In 1894, one of the earliest motion picture experiments took place at the Thomas Edison studio in West Orange, N.J., as comedian Fred Ott was filmed sneezing.

In 1927, commercial transatlantic

telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, the World War II siege of Bataan began.

In 1953, President Harry Truman announced in his State of the Union address that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized Fidel Castro's new government in Cuba.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died at age 87; he was succeeded by Crown Prince Akihito.

Ten years ago: Assassins using a remote-controlled car bomb tried but failed to assassinate former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun. Four other people, however, were killed.

Five years ago: President George Bush arrived in Japan on a tough-talk trade mission. Serb forces shot down a European Community helicopter in Croatia, killing five truce observers. Pitchers Tom Seaver and Rollie Fingers were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

One year ago: One of the biggest blizzards in U.S. history paralyzed the East. (More than 100 deaths were later blamed on the severe weather.) Republicans rejected President Clinton's budget plan and warned they would close government programs they didn't like if there were no agreement on a budget plan in the next few weeks.

Today's Birthdays: Author William Peter Blatty is 69. Country singer Jack Greene is 67. Pop musician Paul Revere is 55. Singer-songwriter Leona Williams is 54. Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 51. Singer Kenny Loggins is 49. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 48. "Today" show co-host Katie Couric is 40. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 38. Actor Nicolas Cage is 33. Country singer-musician John Rich (Leonstar) is 23. Actor Dustin Diamond ("Saved by the Bell: The New Class") is 20.

Thought for Today: "I do not believe that sheer suffering teaches. If suffering alone taught, all the world would be wise. To suffering must be added mourning, understanding, patience, love, openness and the willingness to remain vulnerable." - Anne Morrow Lindbergh, American author.

To Your Good Health

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Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible

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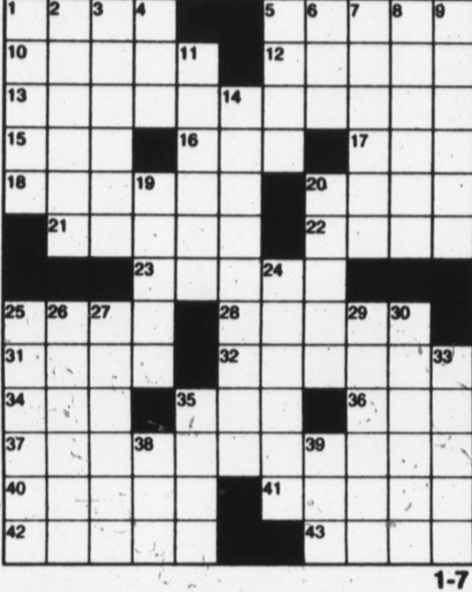
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by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Not so much
5 Drei
10 Profit
12 Kate's roommate
13 Mantle's position
15 Terminus
16 Flying formation for geese
17 One — time
18 Declared
20 Bard's river
21 Catch some z's
22 Camera part
23 Skilled
25 Goblet part
28 Ship fronts
31 Punch sounds
32 Suggests
34 Ring legend
35 Fashion line
36 Take to court
37 Table decoration
40 Yard tool
41 Highway sight
42 Rx amounts
43 Where Gls get

DOWN
1 Sneaker parts
2 History book contents
3 Open footwear
4 Command to Fido
5 Ump's call
6 Inventor Whitney
7 Split
8 "Lost Horizon" author
9 Some cars
11 Provided with dikes
14 Salad ingredient
19 Lions and Tigers
20 Choir singers
24 On time
25 Arranged at intervals
26 Where El Greco
27 "Dallas" family
29 Get smart
30 Wall material
33 Searches
35 Towel inscription
38 Golf aid
39 Writer Levin



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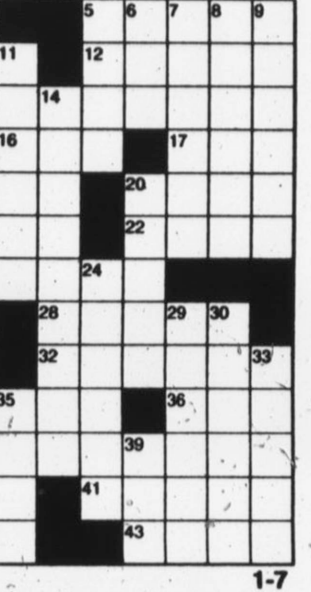
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At many points along the Amazon, the river is too wide to see one shore from the other.



Yesterday's Answer

14 Salad ingredient
19 Lions and Tigers
20 Choir singers
24 On time
25 Arranged at intervals
26 Where El Greco
27 "Dallas" family
29 Get smart
30 Wall material
33 Searches
35 Towel inscription
38 Golf aid
39 Writer Levin



City of Vega (Pop. 840) is accepting applications for Police Chief through January 8, 1997 by 5:00 P.M. Must be certified. Salary negotiable. Application forms may be obtained from Mark J. Groneman, Mayor, P. O. Box 470, Vega, Texas 79092 or you may send resume to above address. 806-267-2144. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

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EYJ GMW HNIWS G SYVW
CY AMWGC UW CUMYJHU
VY EYJ QGS RWWO
EYJM BYJCU VUJC.—
OGCMNQNG Y'UGNMW
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--Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and save money if ads are billed by the line. Brand ads are billed by the words, so spell them out so readers won't be confused trying to figure out abbreviations.

-- Don't be misleading. Think accurate and factual when you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.

Married school superintendents share common career concerns

By JEN SANSBURY
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO - As superintendents of neighboring school districts, Rosanne Stripling and Larry Sullivan share some common concerns about education.

They also share a home, three daughters and two cats.

"How often could two people living in the same house call off school in bad weather?" said Leanne Howell, Stripling's eldest daughter and a counselor at the McLennan County Challenge Academy.

Both in their second marriage, Ms. Stripling, interim superintendent of Waco schools, and Sullivan, superintendent of the La Vega district, will celebrate their 14th wedding anniversary Jan. 22.

"There's still a lot of people who don't know we're married," said Ms. Stripling, who uses her maiden name.

The couple met in Tyler 18 years ago, when Sullivan became the director of special programs for the Tyler school district and Ms. Stripling was the appraisal coordinator for special education. They married in 1983.

They commuted together to Baylor University for a doctoral program and, in 1990, they moved to Waco when Sullivan was hired as assistant superintendent in the La Vega Independent School District. Within a month, the Waco Independent School District hired Stripling as director of quality assurance.

"We thought 'this is too easy,'" Ms. Stripling said. "We must have been meant to come to Waco."

Both ended up serving as deputy superintendents before Sullivan was promoted about three years ago and Ms. Stripling's job changed to associate superintendent last year. Former WISD superintendent Fred Zachary retired in November and Ms. Stripling has been interim superintendent since Dec. 1.

Now the two-story house they built in Waco's Chimney Hill area is home to two superintendents, which is "a little bit out of the ordinary," said Patrick Deviney, associate executive director of the Texas Association of School Administrators. He said there may be another married couple leading separate school districts, but

he isn't sure.

"There are many more advantages than disadvantages," Ms. Stripling said. "We understand and appreciate the schedule each has to keep. Larry understands if I'm home late after a board meeting. He understands because it happens to him, too."

Sullivan, 49, said he doesn't feel professionally competitive with his wife, whose school district is about seven times larger than his. WISD has about 16,000 students and La Vega has about 2,500. But that doesn't mean he's not ambitious.

"My board is aware that as 5A superintendencies come up, I may consider them," Sullivan said.

Applying for the WISD superintendency is something that Sullivan said he hasn't ruled out. Ms. Stripling, 52, has said she does not plan to apply, but acknowledges there's a possibility she could change her mind.

"It's just a real unusual situation and we realize it," Sullivan said.

"If it seems like we're evading, it's because we don't really know," Ms. Stripling said.

Because Ms. Stripling and Sullivan often work late, they have a standing agreement to try to call each other around 6 p.m. Because of their schedules, sometimes they make dates to see each other. On a typical night, they might get home about 7 p.m., eat dinner, then sift through mail without even speaking to one another.

"Both of our jobs are very people intensive and so (having) the time during the day to sit and read the mail just doesn't happen," Sullivan said.

"I would rather be sitting there with her at that table doing the mail than sitting here (in the office) doing mail."

The two spend a lot of time working at their "partners desk," an antique that once sat in an English bank. It has two sides, enabling Sullivan and Ms. Stripling to sit together while working separately.

The halves are separated by an invisible line roughly marked by two letter openers in the middle of the desk. Ms. Stripling notes that her side, kept very neat, is a reflection of her obsessive-compulsive nature. Sullivan says his more cluttered side

indicates a more laid-back personality.

"I think we share the desire and need for quality in our lives. I think he is much more negotiable about how and when things get done," Ms. Stripling said. "He's not quite as intense. I'm quite a bit more intense than he is."

Being married to another superintendent gives each of them a built-in adviser in educational affairs.

"We share solutions and we talk about problems as well as sharing information that we pick up that is of professional value," Ms. Stripling said.

"It's not the only thing we ever talk about, but because we're both in the business, we use each other as a sounding board," Sullivan said. "We talk through what works and what doesn't work."

Hap LeCrone, a Waco psychologist who does consulting work with both the Waco and La Vega school districts, said he thinks the superintendents "are able to derive a lot of energy from each other's professional skills and knowledge."

"It's a great benefit for all of us because in a sense we're getting input from two people in both (districts)," he said.

Because of what Sullivan calls an "unwritten superintendents' code," he and Stripling don't attend each others' board meetings. Because WISD meetings are broadcast on TV, Sullivan sometimes watches and gives Stripling feedback if she asks.

As a La Vega board member and principal at WISD's Lake Waco Elementary, Mildred Watkins is one of Sullivan's bosses and one of Ms. Stripling's employees. She said she admires both of them.

"They have tremendous jobs," Ms. Watkins said. "I think that there's a lot of encouragement and great ideas are coming about."

Professionally, one of the things the couple can do together is attend educational conferences.

"It's a great deal for the districts ... because we split the room rate," Sullivan said.

Personally, they try to carve out time to travel together. In October, they took a brief vacation to New England, where they drove around virtually without an itinerary. This spring they plan a trip to France.

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Duffy turns to heroics in new movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Patrick Duffy, television's Mr. Nice Guy, portrays a firefighter struggling to save the life of a girl on tonight's CBS Tuesday Night Movie, "Heart of Fire."

"Although it's based on a true story, it's not one of those based-on-a-true-story kinds of movies," the Montana-born actor explained. "It's just an adventure. It's like a 'Backdraft' with an oil tanker."

"I'm really getting tired of those cause-oriented TV movies. This was a nice, refreshing thing: to just get out, be a hero, get a little action and call it a day."

In "Heart of Fire" Duffy plays Max Tucker, a firefighter struggling to free a girl (Alex McKenna) who is trapped beneath an oil tanker that has crashed and exploded. Even when the rescue seems hopeless, Tucker stays with the girl and works on a plan to free her.

"You know I'm playing the hero, so I'm not going to die," Duffy said. "We take that for granted going in. It's not that he does super-human feats. It's a relationship story that takes place in a close-to-death inferno situation."

The cost of all the heavy equipment prompted the producers to film in Australia, Duffy believes - "you get more bang for your buck on the dollar exchange."

He added: "Keeping in mind that safety was always paramount on the set, the restrictions about fires, explosions, etc., are a little bit looser there. Because it's more of a frontier industry."

"The studio would let you blow up huge trucks right on the lot without going through a thousand extra permits that are just extraneous and time-consuming. We were able to do a lot of things that would have just drawn out and exhausted everyone here."

Admittedly a not-do-your-own-stunts guy, Duffy had to work close to the fire. Neither he nor anyone else was injured, he said. The movie was filmed at the Warner Bros. studio near Brisbane.

Duffy has been a creature of series TV for most of his career. He started as the gill-equipped "Man from Atlantis," which lasted two seasons, 1977-1979.

In 1978 he began his role as Bobby Ewing on the rip-roaring "Dallas" and stayed with it to the end in 1991. And still it goes on. The recent "Dallas" reunion scored excellent ratings.

Duffy continues making the sitcom "Step by Step," which started in 1991 but was left off ABC's fall schedule. He and Suzanne Somers

play a married couple with three children apiece from their previous marriages, plus another from the current marriage.


He has made 15 episodes of a new season, and ABC is picking up the tab for 24, an amazing show of faith.

Nothing official, but he hears the show will return as a mid-season

replacement. That doesn't bother Duffy except that he can't plan another series while "Step by Step" is in limbo.

Duffy calculates that he has been under contract for series for 20 years, with only a week or two in between.

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Apr	68.50	68.85
May	68.85	69.20
Jun	69.20	69.55
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Aug	69.90	70.25
Sep	70.25	70.60
Oct	70.60	70.95
Nov	70.95	71.30
Dec	71.30	71.65

GRAIN FUTURES

CORN (CBT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.		
Mar	26 1/8	26 1/4
Apr	26 1/4	26 3/8
May	26 3/8	26 1/2
Jun	26 1/2	26 3/4
Jul	26 3/4	27
Aug	27	27 1/8
Sep	27 1/8	27 1/4
Oct	27 1/4	27 3/8
Nov	27 3/8	27 1/2
Dec	27 1/2	27 3/4

METAL FUTURES

GOLD (COM. DIV. NYM) 100 troy oz., \$ per troy oz.		
Jan	341.25	341.25
Feb	341.25	341.25
Mar	341.25	341.25
Apr	341.25	341.25
May	341.25	341.25
Jun	341.25	341.25
Jul	341.25	341.25
Aug	341.25	341.25
Sep	341.25	341.25
Oct	341.25	341.25
Nov	341.25	341.25
Dec	341.25	341.25

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Call	68.00	68.00
Put	68.00	68.00
Call	68.00	68.00
Put	68.00	68.00

THE HEREFORD BRAND



Craters

A blanket of snow concealed much of the local scenery Tuesday morning. Only a faint depression marked the location of these stepping stones at a local residence.

Photo by Mauri Montgomery

Car book guide rates 1997 models

WASHINGTON (AP) - Consumers who take time to research their car choices before deciding on a new set of wheels could save their lives and several thousand dollars too, the author of an annual car-buying guide says.

"Safety sells," says Jack Gillis, who today released the 1997 edition of "The Car Book."

The guide rates the 1997 model cars rolling into automobile showrooms on several criteria, including

crash safety, fuel economy, repair and insurance costs, warranties, safety features and complaint history. The greatest weight is given to crash-test performance.

The year's best overall picks, according to Gillis, are:

-Nissan Sentra, Suzuki Swift and Subaru Impreza in the subcompact category.

-Compacts Buick Skylark, Oldsmobile Achieva, Pontiac Grand Am, Geo Prizm, Mazda MX-6 and

Toyota Corolla.

-Intermediates Audi A4, Volkswagen Passat, Ford Taurus, Mercury Sable, Olds Cutlass Supreme and Volvo 850.

-Large cars Audi A6, Infiniti J30, Cadillac Deville, Cadillac Seville, Lincoln Mark VII, Lincoln Town Car and Oldsmobile.

-Minivans Chrysler Town and Country, Dodge Caravan, Plymouth Voyager, Honda Odyssey, Nissan Quest and Isuzu Oasis.

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams & Ed Sterling
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

creates a dangerous situation for students and is unfair to school personnel who have to wait a long time for their case to be resolved.

Allegations that indicate a potential danger for students — such as sexual misconduct — have the highest priority; allegations of violence are priority two; and drug violations are assigned priority three.

Nursing Home Reforms OK'd

Nursing home administrators will be held accountable for all problems in a nursing home, under a set of tough new standards adopted last week by the Texas Board of Nursing Facility Administrators.

In adopting 25 standards of conduct that hold administrators accountable, the board sided with advocates for the more than 98,000 nursing home residents in Texas.

The vote came after a four-month study by the board to overcome public outrage generated by an *Austin American-Statesman* investigation that found none of the state's 2,700 administrators had been disciplined since 1993, despite questionable deaths, injuries and other problems in Texas nursing homes.

The new standards require administrators:

- To ensure that enough trained workers are on duty and that a nursing home has enough resources to provide adequate nutrition, medication and treatment programs;

- To prevent abuse and neglect of residents; and

- To refrain from misleading families about what services the home provides.

State Workers Want Raises

When the Legislature convenes later this month, state employees want pay raises, and they want their salaries to be a high priority with lawmakers.

State workers have not had an across-the-board pay raise since December 1992.

"Enough is enough. We're going to have to get tough about this," Lane Zivley, executive director of the 16,000-member Texas Public Employees Association, told the

Associated Press. TPEA is seeking a \$250-a-month raise for 1998 and 1999.

Texas House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, said he thinks the raises are long overdue, but a raise would depend on whether the money is available.

Republican Gov. George W. Bush and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, a Democrat, also want to see whether money is available before making commitments to support a raise.

The House Appropriations Committee, headed by Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, has been studying state employee salaries.

"I would like to do a state employee pay raise," Junell said. "I'm not going to say it's going to happen, but I think there's a real desire to do something, at least the people I visit with who are decision-makers."

The state auditor has recommended a raise of 3.5 percent in 1998 and 1999. On the average state workers earned \$24,175 this year.

Other Capital Highlights

■ A toll-free College Information Hotline will open Jan. 18 and 19 to anyone in Texas wanting free information about colleges, universities, admissions, testing and financial aid. The hotline will be staffed by high school and university professionals from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. The number is (800) 347-3475.

■ Texas' population increased to over 19 million in 1996, making it the fastest-growing state for the fourth consecutive year. A high birth rate and migration from other countries boosted the state's population by 326,900 people in the past year, according to an annual population estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau.

■ From Jan. 1 to Dec. 30, 1996, the Texas Department of Public Safety issued 114,655 handgun permits under the state's concealed handgun law. Before the law went into effect, the law's authors projected that 80,000 of the permits would be issued by the end of the year. Now, about one percent of the state's adults have a permit.

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