

Tomorrow's Weather

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See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, December 11, 2006

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Austin Elementary students went on a limo ride to Braum's today provided by Sky Limousine in Amarillo. Pictured standing left are limo driver Arnie Jones, and second graders Colin Massick, Greyson Wilson, Sienna Albers, Nick Stevens and Danikka Resendiz. Kneeling left are Jett Richards, Nicholas Thomas, Makenzy Arganbright, Haylei McCall, Adisson Hinkle and Tanner Stevens.

Children's Shopping Tour termed huge success

On Saturday for the 44th time, the community of Pampa opened its hearts and pocketbooks and took children between the ages of 5 and 10 Christmas shopping for members of their families.

"We had 176 chaperones help the children shop and 147 other volunteers who helped with the organization of the project, with registration, with the wrapping, with preparing the luncheon and cleaning up after the project," said John Wagner, of the Pampa Downtown Kiwanis Club, who was in charge of registration.

Wal-Mart's records showed that 1,120 items were purchased by the 89 youngsters on the tour at a cost exceeding \$11,000. Wal-Mart donated \$3,000 to the project and gave each child a 10 percent discount on all purchases.

"Altogether the shoppers and helpers wrapped about 1,000 presents," said Opti-Mrs. member Whitney Davis, who was in charge of the wrapping party which followed the shopping. "Several of the items were wrapped together."

"We cooked 350 hamburgers for the luncheon this year," said Kevin

Davis of the Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

Capt. Laura Martin of The Salvation Army and Sandra McKinney of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services invited children to participate.

"In Houston, we had problems getting anybody to do anything," Martin said. "I was overwhelmed by the community's response to this project. I've never seen anything like it." Martin and her husband moved to Pampa earlier this year.

"Why are the cops here?" a youngster asked Harvester Head

Football Coach Andy Cavalier.

"They are helping shop and wrap like the rest of us," Cavalier said. "They're good guys."

First timers Joe Davis and Eileen Kludt were touched by the project and promised to return and help again next year.

"My daughter, Emily and I were blessed to be a part of this project," said Connie Nicklas, another first timer.

The Pampa Noon Lions Club through the leadership of Brad

See TOUR, Page 3

Students treated to limo ride

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Austin Elementary students were awarded a party, prizes and a limo ride today from Liberty Fundraising. Students who sold at least 30 candles in the recent fundraising campaign got to enjoy the festivities.

"We want to provide prizes that create memories, instead of just some little toy that will break soon," President of Liberty Fundraising Richard Light said. "We had a party this morning with inflatable bounce houses and gave away cash and portable DVD and MP3 players."

Light explained that the

See LIMO, Page 3

Escaped prisoner caught near Paducah after week on the run

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — An Idaho inmate who escaped a private West Texas prison was captured after a week on the run when authorities caught up to him at a ranch.

Authorities arrested Scot Noble Payne, 43, on Sunday at a ranch near Paducah, said Daniel Hawthorne, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety in Childress.

Payne escaped Dec. 3 from the Dickens County Correctional Center. The facility, which is run by Florida-

based Geo Group Inc., is located in Spur, about 60 miles east of Lubbock.

Prison officials said Payne, who was serving time for aggravated battery and lewd and lascivious conduct, scaled the facility's fence. He fled when temperatures were in the mid-20s, apparently without any extra clothing.

For a week, the fugitive eluded searches by the Texas Rangers, helicopters from the Department of

Public Safety, local law enforcement agents and private prison workers.

Hawthorne said several reports of sightings focused searchers on the Paducah area, which is 50 miles northeast of the detention center.

Authorities closed down sections of highways and continued scanning the area by helicopter, he said. Dogs eventually tracked Payne to the ranch.

Payne is one of more than 460 Idaho inmates who have been

shipped to Texas or other states since last year due to overcrowding in Idaho prisons.

Idaho inmates at private prisons in Texas have been the subject of controversy, with a previous breakout in June and allegations of abuse that preceded the firing of some Geo Group staff and the transfer of inmates to other prisons — including Dickens County.

Thornberry pleased that House took action on bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives Friday prevented a tax increase, expanded energy production, and strengthened the Medicare program.

H.R. 6111 includes a number provisions extending current tax law, including an above-the-line deduction for higher education expenses and out-of-pocket teacher expenses. (Above the line deductions can be claimed without having to itemize deductions.)

The research and development tax

credit was also extended. But, a particular highlight for Texans is the ability to continue deducting state sales taxes from their federal income taxes.

Prior to the passage of a tax relief measure two years ago, state sales taxes, which an individual paid during the year, could not be used as a deduction on federal income tax returns. However, there had long been a deduction allowed for state income taxes. Essentially, Texans were being penalized on their federal taxes because Texas funds state

government through sales taxes instead of a state income tax.

Congress eliminated the inequity through "The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004." But, the legislation passed then only allowed the state sales tax deduction for the 2004 and 2005 tax years. Thus, without the passage of H.R. 6111, the state sales tax deduction would not have been available to Texans when they file their tax forms next year. H.R. 6111 extends state sales deductibility through the 2007 tax year.

"I am glad we have added another

two years of life to the state sales tax deduction," said U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry. "But, my goal is to ultimately make this deduction permanent. States without a state income tax should be treated fairly."

On the energy front, H.R. 6111 significantly expands the opportunity for offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico. More than 8 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico that are currently off-limits will now be available for energy development.

See HOUSE, Page 3

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Courtesy Photo

Cabot Corporation recently made a donation to the Pampa High School Lab. Pictured left are PHS Principal Danny Seabourn, PHS Science teacher Beth Shannon, Cabot Community Relations Team member Aubrey Milligan and Superintendent Barry Haenish.

Cabot doantion helps PHS Lab

Cabot Corporation recently made a donation to the Pampa High School Lab for much needed supplies.

In addition, Cabot's Pampa Facilities will provide three \$250 classroom grants to Pampa area schools. These grants are targeted to benefit science and technology classrooms.

"We are thrilled to be able to help area schools enhance the science curriculum and learning experiences of students through this contribution," Barbara Eldridge, leader of the community relations team, said. "Cabot feels that a good education is essential to the future of our children."

Teachers are encouraged to apply for these grants if they teach science or technology at the elementary, middle or high school levels. The proposals should state

how the funds will be used and how the proposal's impact will be measured. The deadline for proposals is Jan. 15, 2007. All propos-

als should be mailed to Cabot Community Relations Team, P.O. Box 5001, Pampa, TX 79066-5001.

House

Continued from Page 1

Geologists estimate that the newly opened territory contains at least 1.26 billion barrels of oil and 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Experts say the crude oil in the newly opened region is sufficient to produce enough gasoline to fuel 2.7 million cars for 15 years and enough natural gas to heat and cool nearly 6 million homes for 15 years.

"This bill allows us to produce more energy at home. The House passed a bill earlier this year that

would have opened up more offshore territory to energy production, but the political reality is that this bill is the most we could get through the Senate this year," Thornberry said.

H.R. 6111 also includes significant Medicare provisions that will benefit Texans who depend on Medicare. The bill prevents Medicare physician payment reductions which could have driven some doctors out of the Medicare program.

Passage of H.R. 6111 came in what was scheduled to be the final week for the 109th Congress. The House adjourned Friday night.

Tour

Continued from Page 1

Pingel contacted families Friday to remind them of the tour.

"We only had five kids who did not show up," Wagner said. "Four of them had moved. That personal contact made a tremendous difference in participation by the kids."

Emily Nicklas was the chair for the Energizer Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church. The junior high students helped with the shopping and wrapping and also led the children in singing Christmas carols and in a coloring contest.

The American Red Cross, behind the leadership of Vanessa Vick and Jana Gregory, furnished the materials and prizes for the contest and bags of candy for each child.

Cinema 4 donated two free passes to each child. The Rev. Ben Ceyanes read a story about the reason for the Christmas Season.

Lyn Ledbetter of Tralee Crisis Center gathered up orange juice, coffee and

donuts for the volunteers to begin their morning.

More than 35 organizations participated.

Included were First Baptist Church, Body of Christ Church, First Christian Church, First Christian Church of Miami, First Presbyterian Church, Moose Lodge No. 1385, Aldersgate Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church, Lamplighters Sunday School Class of the First Christian Church, Harvester football team, Lady Harvester Basketball team, PHS Cheerleaders, PHS Student Council, National Honor Society, ASTRA, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Pampa Rotary Club, Pampa Police Officers Association, Gray County Sheriff's Office, Roberts County Sheriff's Office, Miami Area Youth Organization (MAYO), St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, First Baptist Church of Miami and Junior Service League.

"We could not do this project without the help of the high school organizations," Wagner said. "They made up almost half of our volunteers. This community is going to be in very good hands in the future. These kids are outstanding."

Limo

Continued from Page 1

cost of these rewards are paid by his company and not the school.

Booster Club President Amy Stevens said these students should be rewarded for getting out there and selling to help benefit the school. She said the students that received this limo ride last year really enjoyed and remembered it, so they wanted to repeat the event this year.

The students were divided up by grade level and were driven in the Hummer limo, from Sky Limousine in Amarillo, to Braum's for lunch. After enjoying their free meal, the students were driven back to school where they had to try and calm down from the excitement of the morning and get back to learning.

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Viewpoints

Frontiersmen lived life without benefit of weather forecasting

The only weather forecasting in early day Texas came from experience.

Folks understood that it could get very cold in winter, stormy in the spring, hot in the summer, and cool in the fall. But they never had the advantage of knowing much in advance when the weather would change.

These days, thanks to the National Weather Service, Texans are apprised days ahead of time that arctic air is pushing its way south. They have plenty of time to wrap their pipes against freezing, protect their plants and animals and lay in a supply of firewood, chili meat and both the external and internal varieties of anti-freeze.

Back then, a traveler could leave home in warmth only to soon find himself shivering in a strong north wind, the mercury dropping faster than a boulder off a cliff.

Nor did Texans yet know the

term "chill factor," the effect wind speed has on making the actual temperature feel even colder. All they knew was that Texas could turn colder than a bill collector's heart in a matter of hours.

"It is understood by many persons at a distance that the Texas northerners, are dreadful winter storms, which come on so suddenly and are so severe and extremely cold, that man and beast, caught out on the open prairies a few miles from shelter, have often been known to freeze to death in a very short time," W.J. Blewett wrote for D.W.C. Baker's 1875 "A Texas Scrapbook."

Not only could northers not be predicted, 19th century Texans did not enjoy the luxury of merely needing to flip a switch or turn the dial on a thermostat to get warm. Back then, they did whatever they could not simply to be comfortable, but to survive.

Big Foot Wallace told of a forced march while a Mexican prisoner. To stay warm at night, he and his fellow Texans covered their camp fires with dirt and slept above them.

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



Rev. Z.N. Morrell, a traveling Methodist preacher, got caught on the road (though it wasn't much of a road back then) when a spring-like March day reverted to winter.

"A blue Texas norther whistled around my ears," he wrote, "and appeared almost to penetrate my quivering limbs, as I mounted my horse, at four o'clock in the evening, with 25 miles lying stretched between me and (his des-

tinuation)."

The minister got soaked riding his horse across a stream and might have died of hypothermia had he not wandered up on a recently-built cabin. The occupants had not had time to chink the cracks between the logs of their new home, but they had a hearty fire going and a pot of coffee on.

In exchange for their hospitality, Morrell went out and shot a turkey that soon roasted on the fire.

Buffalo hunters caught on the open plains by a blue norther sometimes sought shelter inside the steaming carcass of a freshly-slain bison. Occasionally, they got frozen inside the dead animal, unable to emerge until the weather moderated.

Northers could kill the unprotected, but one pioneer Texan claimed a blue norther saved his life.

As Blinn College's Star of the

Republic Museum noted in its fall newsletter, a DeWitt colony pioneer named Nathan Boone Burkett attributed his longevity to a vicious cold front swept into South Central Texas in the first week of December in 1838. At the time, Burkett and several other volunteers rode hard on the trail of a party of Indians who had abducted some of his neighbors' children.

"We followed this trail for three days," Burkett recalled. "On the fourth day an old fashioned blue norther hit us right in the face. It was sleeting in a short time, and the ground was soon covered with sleet and ice."

Despite the miserable conditions, the Texans stuck to the trail. But soon, because of the ground cover, they could no longer see the tracks of the Indian ponies.

"It was then nearly night and I

See WEATHER, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 2006. There are 20 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in order to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson.

On this date:

In 1792, France's King Louis XVI went before the Convention to face charges of treason. (Louis was convicted, and executed the following month.)

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1882, Boston's Bijou Theatre, the first American play-

house to be lighted exclusively by electricity, gave its first performance, of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe."

In 1928, police in Buenos Aires, Argentina, announced they had thwarted an attempt on the life of President-elect Herbert Hoover.

In 1937, Italy withdrew from the League of Nations.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1980, President Carter signed into a law legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental "superfund" to pay for cleaning up chemical spills and toxic waste dumps.

In 1981, the U.N. Security Council chose Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to be the fifth secretary-general of the world body.

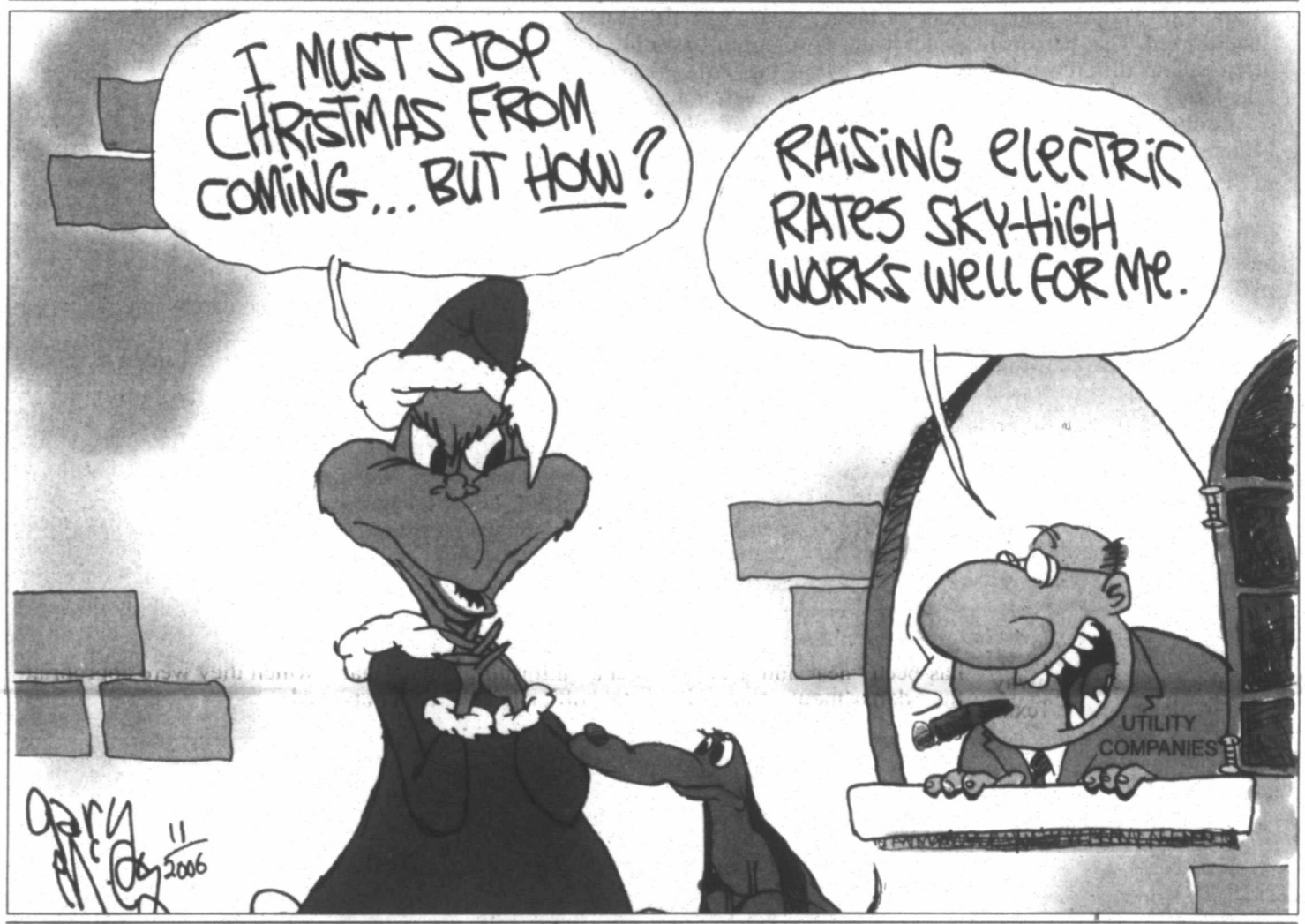
In 1991, a jury in West Palm Beach, Fla., acquitted William Kennedy Smith of sexual assault and battery, rejecting the allegations of Patricia Bowman.

Ten years ago: A China-organized committee of 400 Hong Kong notables elected shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa to be the first postcolonial leader of Hong Kong.

Five years ago: In the first criminal indictment stemming from Sept. 11, federal prosecutors charged Zacarias Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, with conspiring to murder thousands in the suicide hijackings. (Moussaoui pleaded guilty to conspiracy in 2005 and was sentenced to life in prison.)

'The people who think they are happy should rummage through their dreams.'

— Edward Dahlberg
American author and critic (1900-1977)



Words can't be taken back once spoken

Pope Benedict XVI wasted a lot of the Turkish government's money for a visit that accomplished nothing. The cost of providing security for the pontiff had to be enormous.

He was trying, of course, to overcome the faux pas he made in an earlier speech when he quoted a Crusader linking the prophet Muhammad and Muslims to violence and other miscellaneous evil. You would think that the leader of the Catholic Church would have assistants who would have warned him off from using that quotation. After all, the Crusaders were hardly objective observers of Islam.

But, as any marriage counselor could have told him, you can't take back words. Once words leave your mouth, they fly around the world like birds and light where they please. You can't

whistle them back.

Since Christianity is obviously dying in the West, I would think the pontiff would better serve his cause by devoting his attention to Europe and North America and leaving the Muslim world alone.

There is, after all, an irremovable barrier to ecumenicalism. All religions purport to be the final word on truth. Islam is monotheistic; Christianity is polytheistic (the father, the son and the Holy Ghost). There is no room for compromise. The same is true between the Roman Catholics and the Orthodox Christians, who split with Rome over the issue of the bishop of Rome being the final word on mat-

ters of faith.

The pope is not about to surrender his pre-eminent position, and I doubt seriously that the Orthodox are any more willing to accept that today than they were more than 900 years ago. As for Protestants becoming Catholics, forget it. A lot of Protestants can't even get along with each other, much less with Roman Catholics. Religious Jews don't accept Jesus as the son of God. There is no room for compromise there.

The answer to brotherhood is common courtesy. Respect other people's beliefs and refrain from arguing with them or insulting them. That's so simple and obvious, it's no wonder

so many blockheads don't get it.

The pope's call for religious leaders to condemn violence was misplaced. Far, far more prominent Muslim clerics have publicly condemned Osama bin Laden and his tactics than have Christians condemned George Bush and his violence. The pope should have gone to Washington and London instead of Turkey. Those two capitals are the source of most of the violence today, though we don't like to admit it.

There's too much emphasis on the Middle East. Nothing in that part of the world is a real threat to us. What's killing us are internal forces — rampant materialism, unrestrained capitalism, decadence, destruction of the environment and corrup-

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Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Dec. 3
Houston Chronicle on the state's decision to cancel federal appropriations for local mobility and economic development:

Federal funding for hundreds of projects across the state of Texas, ranging from hike and bike trails to a Houston heritage tourism center, have been arbitrarily canceled by Texas Department of Transportation officials.

The diversion of already appropriated federal dollars from much needed local improvements to highway expansion is shortsighted and should be reversed. Local organizations had

already pledged 20 percent matching funds for the federal dollars, enhancement money that will go unspent if the projects remain canceled.

State officials acted after the Federal Highway Administration cut the amount of transportation dollars allocated to the state from gasoline tax revenue due to the costs of the Iraq War and hurricane reconstruction. Faced with a choice of how to budget the remaining funds, TxDot chose to cancel federal grants for the local efforts and will apparently use the money to maintain the rest of its spending priorities, including projects to alleviate traffic congestion. State Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, says the agency protected its favored mobility projects at the expense of cities and counties

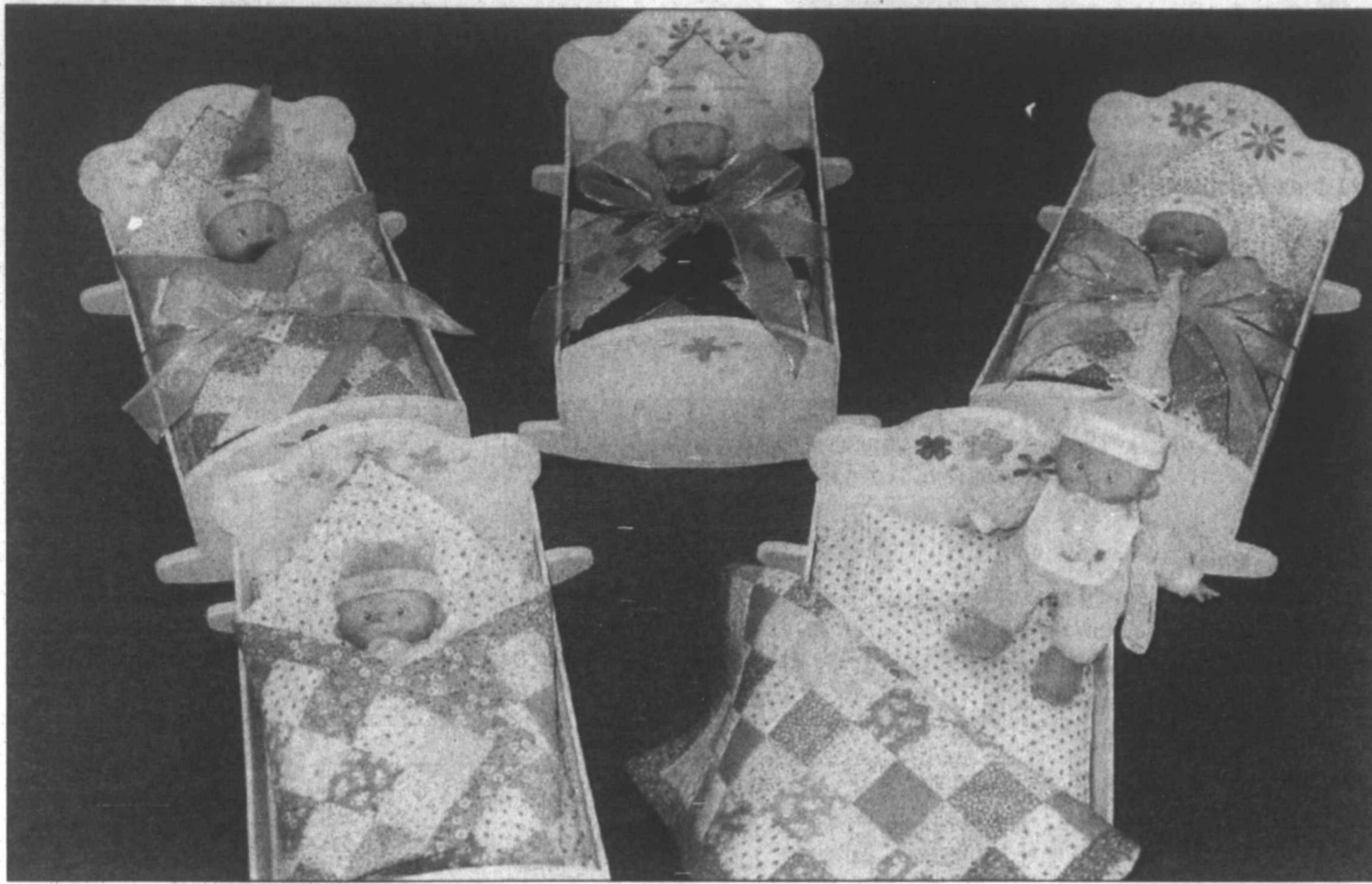
across the state, including 32 projects in the Houston-Galveston area.

A sample of those proposals includes districtwide graffiti abatement, Houston Ship Channel Turning Basin beautification, NASA Parkway enhancements, Spring Branch Creek trail and a shared-use bridge in Memorial Park. Millions of grant dollars have already been spent in support of Buffalo Bayou improvements and freeway landscaping in the area.

Coleman believes the local projects were canceled to ensure that funding remains for start-up efforts on the controversial TransTexas Corridor, a vast tollroad project championed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

See STATE, Page 5

Cradle Babies



COURTESY PHOTO

Looking for a unique gift this Christmas season? Well, these hand-crafted "cradle babies" are available for a \$50 donation to the Salvation Army. The work of Susie and Raymond Edwards, the deadline to acquire one of these darlings is Friday. In addition to the dolls, three custommade baby quilts are also available. Prices of the baby quilts vary. For more details, call 665-4268 or 662-2909.

Weather

Continued from Page 4

had only some summer clothes, so I came close to freezing that night," Burkett continued.

No matter the cold, some-

one had to stand guard against the possibility of the Indians circling around to catch their pursuers by surprise.

"Immediately after we stopped I was detailed to go on guard," Burkett remembered, "but a friend kindly loaned me a gray saddle blanket which I used around

me in Indian fashion. In a short time the blanket was frozen as stiff as a board, but it offered me some protection."

Sleet kept falling throughout the night. In the morning, the men agreed the only sensible thing to do was head back home.

Eventually, the children

gained their freedom. One of them later told Burkett it had been a good thing the weather forced the Texans to return, because they had been trailing a war party of some 500 braves. If the Texans had managed to catch up with the Indians, they probably would have been killed.

State

Continued from Page 4

"It's making a decision to end projects that create sustained economic life and quality of life in communities for more highway lanes," Coleman said. Texas

Historical Commission Executive Director Larry Oakes told the Chronicle he attributed TxDot's action to the agency's dislike of sharing its federal transportation dollars for local projects. A TxDot official denied that, saying the grants program has been "near and dear" to the department since its

inception in 1991. He didn't explain why such a beloved program would be unceremoniously killed without consulting either state legislators or local elected officials.

Chairman Williamson sent a letter to grant applicants informing them that state officials would not pur-

sue further enhancement projects unless forced to by law. State legislators should take him at his word and pass a bill in the coming session restoring the enhancement program and mandating that federal funds reach the local destinations for which they were appropriated.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

tion.

Our society is crumbling around us, and what do we do? We frantically invent more toys and elevate Hollywood gossip to front-

page news.

Pope Benedict is a good man, and I'm glad he traveled safely, but his influence is needed in the West, not in the Middle East. He should visit the nearly empty churches in Europe and talk to some of the young priests who are valiantly trying to serve four or more parishes

at the same time.

He should visit America and try to repair the damage done by pedophile priests and bishops who covered for them. Christianity is a good religion, and he should try to persuade Europeans and Americans to give it a try. Most never have, though a lot pay lip service to it.

In the meantime, Islam and Orthodox Christianity have served the people of the Middle East for centuries, and neither one needs any meddling by the West.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Bah Humbug included in decorations

BYRON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Jason Lee insists he's not declaring war on Christmas, despite what the multicolored lights on his front lawn spell out.

His display of holiday decorations just happens to include the phrase "Bah-hum-bug."

"I like the holidays, and I've always decorated for Christmas," Lee told The Grand Rapids Press in Sunday editions. "Can't have too many lights."

Lee, 28, a sheet metal

worker, said he was just having fun with the display when he included the sour sentiment made famous by Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

He started the display in mid-November.

It began with the word "bug," followed by "bah" a few days later and finally, "hum," said next-door neighbor John Stryker, who called the Christmas catchphrase odd but not offensive.

'Gift of Sight' campaign hosted by Lions Club

Pampa Lions Club is hosting the "Give the Gift of Sight" campaign.

On Dec. 21, postal carriers will pick up eyeglasses from mail boxes. The Post Office at 120 E. Foster will also accept donations through the end of December.

Any size, fashion and prescription are accepted. The eyeglasses are refurbished and distributed by the Lions Club to other countries.

For more information, contact ReDonn Woods at 669-2525.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have an unusual problem that I'm not sure how to handle. As a man in my late 20s, I still consider myself quite young. I dated a bit before getting married and enjoyed kissing. My wife, however, does not seem to enjoy it -- or perhaps isn't that "skilled," I'm not sure which. I feel like one of my needs isn't being met. We have been married almost three years. I have tried talking with her about it, but it always seems to come off like I'm comparing her "abilities" to my past girlfriends -- and that's not what I intend at all. I honestly don't think this is a question of technique, but rather of effort. This hasn't caused any major arguments or anything yet, but it is something I find seriously lacking. Any ideas? -- **MISSING THE KISSING IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR MISSING THE KISSING: You may "honestly not think it's a question of technique, but rather of effort" -- but I'm not entirely sure I agree. Not all people are equally talented at kissing, so my suggestion to you is to demonstrate the kind of kisses you would like to be able to share with her. And when you do, do not mention your past or any other woman -- just what kind of kisses make you feel the most loved and cherished. If your wife loves you, and your breath isn't a turn-off, I'm sure she'll cooperate.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Trey," and I have been married a year and a half. Most of the time I am very happy. I say that because we do argue sometimes, which is normal. Trey gets upset with me when I ask questions about the ex-lover he had before me. (I ask him about his intimacy with her and how she was.) I often ask these questions out of the blue. I just want to know because I become jealous. I never had a man in my life before. My husband was my

first man ever, but I don't feel that "special" anymore because his ex was a virgin, too, and gave him her all as I did on our wedding night. I just don't feel like I gave him anything that special when someone before me already did. In other words, I wanted to be the first virgin he ever had. How can I get past this? -- **UNSATISFIED IN SPRINGFIELD, VA.**

DEAR UNSATISFIED: You gave your husband the one gift that nobody else could ever give him: You gave him yourself on your wedding night. Please be satisfied with that, and stop obsessing. What you are looking for isn't information about another woman; it's really confirmation about your husband's feelings about you. Because you need reassurance, that is what you should be asking your husband for -- not information about a woman who wasn't able to earn his love regardless of how much she gave him.

DEAR ABBY: Friends of mine received an invitation to a holiday party that I have attended for the last few years, but I did not get an invitation this year. The same thing happened last year. When I mentioned it to the hosts, they said it was an oversight and to attend the party anyway. My friend who got an invitation said he can't make it, so I should attend in his place. Is this proper protocol? What should I do? -- **UNDECIDED IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR UNDECIDED: Under no circumstances should you attend the party in your friend's place. You were not invited to the gathering and do not belong there. My advice is to make plans for the evening, go out and enjoy yourself with other friends. (And I sincerely hope you take it!)

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 "La — Vita"

1 Folded, stuffed tortilla
5 Delineate refusal
9 Shower attendee, usually

10 Strong winds
12 Modify
13 Terrific

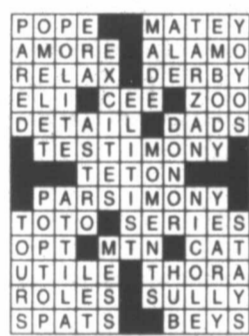
14 Hummers' instruments
16 Time of anticipation
17 British prep school

18 Printing method
21 Capitol Bldg. worker

22 Locked up
23 Like Nash poems
24 Towhead
26 Plop down

29 Bartlett's collection
30 Mystery writer
31 Fancy planter
32 Get the better of

34 First-string players
37 Wading bird

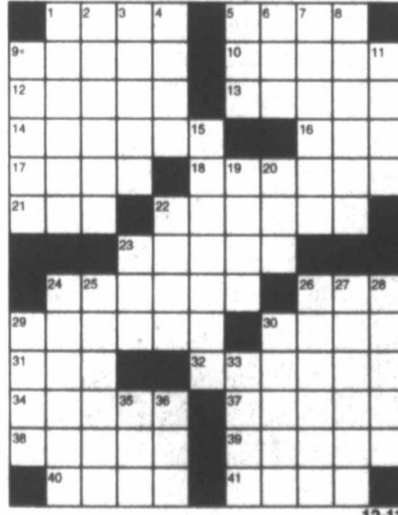


Saturday's answer

DOWN
1 So far
2 Brazilian river
3 Poultry buy
4 Aware of
5 Nest sight
6 Road goo
7 "Fawly Towers" star
8 Threw
9 Ship trails
11 Proofing note
15 Scoundrel hunt

19 Dandy's partner
20 Go by air
22 Flag Day month
23 Cooking vessel
24 One of Taylor's husbands
25 Desolate
26 Game
27 Pressed
28 Price add-ons
29 Campus area
30 Play a banjo
33 Home of the Bruins
35 Top card
36 Got together

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Marmaduke



"This explains it. The big ones are from dog food companies."

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS, By Bil Keane



"That's just a guy dressed up like a pizza. He's not REAL like the characters at Disneyland."

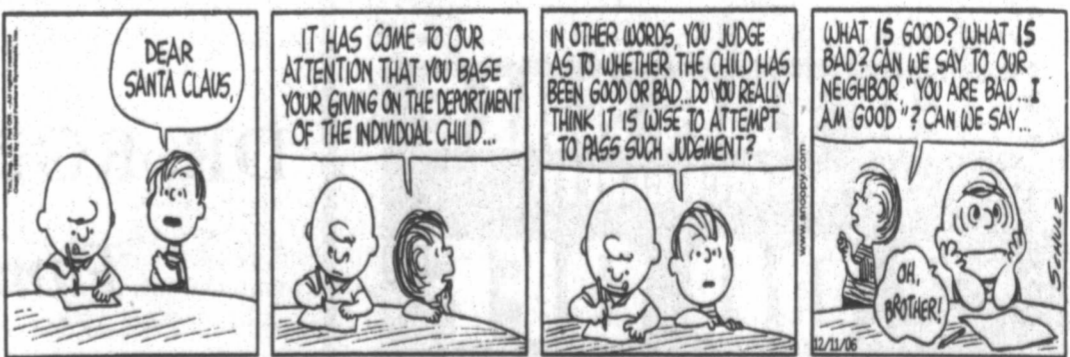
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day



Junior Trent Harris takes a shot during the fourth quarter Saturday against South Garland at the Brooke Nichols Memorial Shootout at South Garland High School. The Harvesters were defeated, 38-72.

Pampa basketball: weekend update

Both teams on the road this weekend, the Harvesters faced some tough losses.

On Saturday morning, Coach Miller's boys first faced off against South Garland at the Brooke Nichols Memorial Shootout. The final score was 38-72, with Tyler Hall leading the team by scoring 9 points.

Also, Bradley Johnson scored 7 points and Matt Smith scored 6.

Next up, Pampa played against Sachse, where Matt Smith led scoring with 14 points, followed by Alex Clendinning with 8 points.

The Harvesters were defeated by Sachse, the final score being 39-55.

The Varsity and JV boys will be going up against the Borger Bulldogs here in Pampa on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Coach Troy's Varsity girls also traveled this weekend, to Canadian.

Following a good week, after defeating Tascosa on Tuesday, Dec 5, the Lady Harvesters faced a close loss to Canadian on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Pampa ended the game behind by 5 points, the final score being 56-61.

Taking the lead in points scored was Britteni Rice, with 21 points, followed by Amber Brown who brought in 8.

McEnsie East helped the team by pulling down 12 rebounds, as Britteni Rice, Haili Kotare and Jasmine Moore each had 4.

As for everyone else, McEnsie East scored 7 points, Haili Kotare scored 7 points, Kelsie Wyatt scored 6 points, and Jasmine Moore scored 7 points.

The girls will also be playing in town this week, on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

New Orleans defeats Dallas at home field Sunday, 42-17

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Bill Parcells had plenty of time on the sideline to fret about the Dallas Cowboys' dismal performance and being outcoached by his former assistant.

After a 42-17 loss to the New Orleans Saints, Parcells was surprisingly calm. While certainly disgusted after standing mostly with his arms crossed through a scoreless fourth quarter Sunday night in a fast-emptying Texas Stadium, the coach was past ranting and raving.

"Like I said, this game is a humbling game. This could happen to anybody," Parcells said. "We couldn't really do anything, but I give them credit for that."

By them, he had to really mean first-year Saints coach Sean Payton.

Payton was calm as well, refusing to boast about the lopsided outcome and downplaying any significance of knowledge about the Cowboys he might have garnered the past three seasons while on Parcells' staff.

"After 12 weeks, it's all there. All their tendencies are on computer or film," Payton said. "A lot of

things have changed since I've been here."

Payton insisted he wasn't trying to prove anything in his first game against Parcells, who used to teasingly refer to him as "Dennis the Menace."

But Payton sure was a pain to Parcells with his play-calling, including a reverse on a fourth-and-1 and four touchdowns from two players who had never scored before. There was even an onside kick when the Saints already had an 18-point lead.

"I could tell it was very special for him," said Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who was 26-of-38 for 384 yards. "He didn't put a lot of added pressure on us this week. He just went on with his business. But I could see in the gleam in his eye at the end of the game. ... I could tell it meant a lot."

The onside kick worked, like pretty much everything else for the Saints (9-4), who took over sole possession of the second-best record in the NFC. They have a two-game lead in the NFC South with three games to play.

"I have a ton of respect for Bill and all he's accomplished in

Dallas," said Payton, who shared only a quick handshake with Parcells at midfield after the game. "This was two good 8-4 teams playing a big game. It wasn't me competing against Bill. It was about the teams, not the head coaches."

The Cowboys (8-5) had won four straight games and five of six, still have a one-game lead over the New York Giants and Philadelphia in the NFC East.

Mike Karney was mainly a blocking fullback without a touchdown in his first 43 career games for the Saints, but finally carried a ball into the end zone — three times, on two receiving TDs and a running score. Jamal Jones' 27-yard TD catch in the final minute of the first half was the first of his career, and only the third catch in his 10 games over two seasons.

A week after his four-TD game, Reggie Bush turned a screen pass into a 61-yard score, breaking loose of one tackler and weaving through several others.

"We definitely came into this game prepared, studied hard and we knew what their tendencies were," linebacker Akin Ayodele

said. "They changed it up a little bit."

Tony Romo had the worst game of his budding career: 16-of-33 for 249 yards, with two interceptions and a fluke 34-yard TD to Terrell Owens on what would have been another pickoff if cornerback Fred Thomas wasn't wearing a cast. It was only Romo's second loss since replacing Drew Bledsoe as the starter seven games ago.

"I don't think any confidence is lost at all," Owens said. "We just played bad and they played very, very well, they're a talented team. ... If you're going to have this type of game, this is the best time to have it."

Things were so bad that Parcells drew a 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty for throwing a red challenge flag inside the final two minutes of the first half, when only the officials can review plays.

While Jones' 27-yard catch was ruled an incompletion after the booth review, the penalty against Parcells put the ball at the 27. Jones' TD came on the next play.

"One of my coaches upstairs says challenge it and you have your instincts you know that you try to

fight," Parcells said. "But I take the blame for it."

Payton's only challenge resulted in the third TD for Karney, initially marked out of bounds at the 1 after he dived to the end zone and slid the ball across the pylon while being tackled. The call was reversed to a TD after the review.

The Saints then caught Dallas off-guard with the onside kick, and four plays later Devery Henderson caught a 42-yard TD pass, rolling on the ground the final 2 yards into the end zone after making a leaping catch and falling down without being touched by a defender.

Notes: The Cowboys led 7-0 after Julius Jones' 77-yard TD run on their second offensive play. He had 109 yards by halftime, and finished with 116. His 993 yards match his career best. ... New Orleans had consecutive 21-point quarters, their only three-TD quarters this season, against a Dallas defense that hadn't allowed more than 22 points in his last six games. ... Already the NFL leader in yards passing, Brees topped 4,000 for the first time in his career.

JV Wrestling Results: December 7 - 9, 2006

Thursday, December 7

Pampa JV v Amarillo High

40 - 36

112 - Johnson recieved forfeit

119 - Leal pinned

Tumbleston

130 - Botello pinned Long

140 - Riley defeated by Bouchelle

145 - Maxwell defeated Shank

160 - Angliano defeated by Neighbors

171 - Gonzales recieved forfeit

180 - Burns recieved forfeit

285 - Olsen pinned Brown

Pampa v Bushland

39-27

112 - Johnson defeated by Gibbs

119 - Leal recieved forfeit

130 - Botello pinned Moore

140 - Riley pinned Munns

145 - Maxwell defeated White

152 - Douglass pinned Williams

160 - Angliano defeated by Gilmore

171 - Gonzales defeated by Mata

180 - Burns pinned Stevenson

285 - Olsen recieved forfeit

Saturday, December 9

Pampa v Tucumcari

33-42

112 - Johnson pinned by Manning

119 - Leal pinned Ramirez

130 - Botello pinned Fazekas

135 - Coles recieved forfeit

140 - Riley recieved forfeit

145 - Maxwell defeated Garcia

152 - Pampa forfeit to W. Martinez

160 - Pampa forfeit to M. Martinez

189 - Burns recieved forfeit

215 - Pampa forfeited to Lopez

285 - Olsen pinned by Enriquez

Baby's First Christmas

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Published December 24th

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- No emails will be accepted
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Vince Young and Titans win in Houston, 26-20

HOUSTON (AP) — Vince Young weaved through the Houston Texans defense for the winning touchdown, ripped off his helmet and started screaming and dancing with joy.

Playing in his hometown for the first time as a pro, Young's 39-yard dash in overtime on Sunday lifted the Tennessee Titans to a 26-20 victory over the Texans, the team that spurned him in the draft.

The former University of Texas superstar pumped his chest to the wild cheers of fans, many of them in burnt orange, after the electrifying play. He slapped hands with some and blew kisses to others before his teammates mobbed him in the corner of Reliant Stadium, only 6 miles from Young's childhood home.

It was the Titans' third straight comeback victory and fourth win in a row. And

it came over the team that passed over Young in the draft.

How's that for a homecoming?

"It was a great ending, just being from Houston," Young said. "And then being in front of my family and the fans who respect me as a person as well. It doesn't get any better than that."

The game drew the second-largest crowd in the stadium's history. Most of them were there to see Young, who led Texas to the national championship less than a year ago.

Young handled the pregame hoopla in stride, dismissing the notion that he was ever distracted this week.

"I didn't feed into that," he said. "I knew I just had to go out and practice and get prepared to play. That's basically what I did."

The Texans had the No. 1 overall pick in the last draft,

but picked defensive end Mario Williams to the dismay of many fans in Houston and across the state. Young downplayed how much the snub motivated him on Sunday.

"I'm not trying to get into a conflict with those guys," he said. "To me, they're a great team and good luck for the rest of them guys. I have a lot of respect for them."

The Texans (4-9) may be regretting that decision now, ensured of their fifth losing season in five years of existence.

"You've got to give that kid a lot of credit," said Houston coach Gary Kubiak. "The play he made there was special. It's off the charts."

And Young is starting to make them all the time.

Two weeks ago, the Titans (6-7) rallied from a 21-0 deficit in the final 9 1/2 minutes to beat the Giants. Last week, Rob Bironas' 60-yard field goal in the final seconds

beat Indianapolis.

On Sunday, Young was 19-of-29 for 218 yards passing and ran for another 86 yards.

"I'm just getting more comfortable each week," he said. "Also, as a team, we're playing together, we're believing in each other. Even though I had an interception, we've got guys who would say, 'Hey, we're going to get the ball back to you.' That means a whole lot to me and keeps my confidence up high."

Young showed his first flashback to his college days on the Titans' third drive, scrambling for 24 yards after the Texans snuffed out a flea flicker. The third-down run led to a 41-yard field goal by Bironas and a 3-0 Tennessee lead.

Young flicked a 29-yard pass to Drew Bennett on the last play of the first quarter and Bironas added a 33-yard field goal early in the second.

But Young and the Titans' offense mostly misfired in the opening half. Tennessee had 153 yards at the break, but converted only one of six third downs.

The Texans' offense was worse, but Ron Dayne powered a drive that gave Houston a 7-6 halftime lead. He gained 23 yards on seven carries, the last one a straight-ahead scoring run with 7:54 left in the second quarter.

Houston took the opening kickoff of the second half and used Dayne to hammer the Titans' 30th-ranked rushing defense. Dayne rushed six times for 35 yards on the drive and barreled over two Tennessee defenders for his second touchdown.

Young kick-started the Titans with a 39-yard pass to Bennett midway through the third quarter. Travis Henry faked out Texans cornerback Demarcus Faggins and scored Tennessee's first touchdown with 1:49 left.

But on the Titans' next

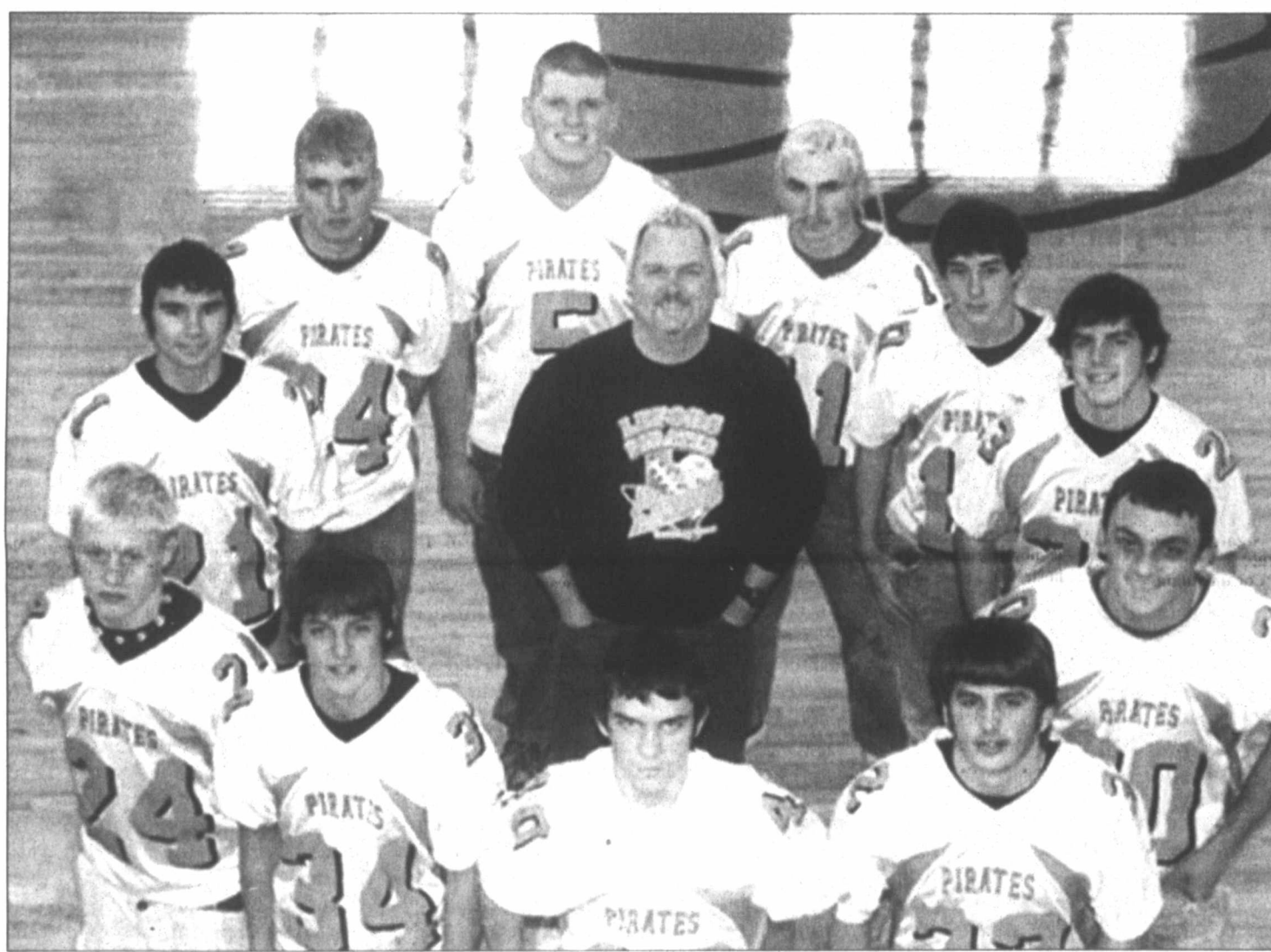
possession, Young slipped dropping back and Faggins intercepted his off-balance throw to Bennett near midfield. The turnover set up Kris Brown's season-long 49-yard field goal that gave Houston a 17-13 lead.

Young engineered a 15-play, 88-yard drive ending with a 2-yard run by Henry to give Tennessee its first lead of the second half, 20-17.

Houston quarterback David Carr was 17-of-23 for 140 yards, but was unable to come through when the Texans needed a touchdown.

Notes: Dayne scored his 18th and 19th career touchdowns, but his first since November 2005, when he played for the Broncos. ... Carr completed his first eight passes. ... Andre Johnson reached 1,000 yards receiving for the second straight season. ... Former Texas quarterback Major Applewhite watched the game from the Texans sideline.

Lefors All District Team announced



Eleven Lefors football players were selected by the Six Man Division II District 8 coaches to receive all-district honors. Pictured clockwise from top (No. 5) are Dustin Forsyth, 2nd Team Center; Robert Wallen, 1st Team Defensive Lineman; Nick Hess, 2nd Team Safety; Cameron Klein, 1st Team Utility Back and 1st Team Linebacker; J.D. Pairsh, 1st Team Tight End; Tory Coombes, 1st Team Wide Receiver and 2nd Team Linebacker; Jeremy Sprouse, 1st Team Special Teams Player and 1st Team Cornerback, Brandon McBee, 2nd Team Kicker; Payton Johnson, 1st Team Defensive Lineman; Brent Roberson, 1st Team Running Back and 1st Team Safety; and Tanner Ray, 2nd Team Tight End. Center is Head Coach Joey Czubinski, named Coach of the Year. The Pirates advanced to the Regional Round of playoffs--their first playoff berth since 1974 as an eleven-man team.

Ohio State's Troy Smith takes Heisman by large margin

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Moments after receiving the Heisman Trophy, Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith had a few words for youngsters who want to follow in his footsteps.

"The first thing I would say to little kids is that anything and everything is possible with your dreams if you have humility," Smith told The Associated Press by phone in the midst of a celebration Saturday night.

Smith became Ohio State's sixth Heisman winner, and he did it in record fashion. He captured 86.7 percent of the first-place votes and totaled 1,662 points. The fifth-year quarterback easily beat out Arkansas running back Darren McFadden (878) and Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn (782).

The margin of victory was the second largest ever, exceeded only by O.J. Simpson's 1,750-point victory in 1968.

Smith captured the award just two years after he was suspended from the team for two games for accepting \$500 from a booster. Three months before his suspension, he was just a backup quarterback with little opportunity to play.

Smith said the lesson he learned was perseverance.

"Any time you get in a situation where things don't happen the way you want them to happen, you need to listen to other people and pick goals that you think are reachable," Smith said. "Then stay at it, loving and understanding and knowing your dreams. Your dreams can get you anywhere you want to go in life."

Smith joins Les Horvath (1944), Vic Janowicz (1950), Howard "Hopalong" Cassady (1955), Archie Griffin (1974, '75) and Eddie George (1995) as Ohio State's winners of the most prestigious individual award in college football.

Smith completed 67 percent of his passes for a school-record 30 touchdowns with just five interceptions while leading top-ranked Ohio State to a perfect 12-0 mark and a berth in the national championship game.

Smith's victory reverberated far beyond the Nokia Theater in Times Square in

New York City, where it was announced. In his native Cleveland and in Columbus, Ohio State fans toasted Smith's big accomplishment.

Listed as a fifth-year senior on the roster, Smith already picked up a degree in communications last spring. He has continued in school while seeking a second degree in Black Studies.

Through the good times and the bad, Smith said he had always made it a point to take a daily glance at the Heisman Trophy cases that sit in the atrium of the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. He said it was overwhelming to think that he would now be joining that pantheon of Buckeyes greats.

"Oh, man. It probably won't sit in until I leave the university," he said. "But knowing that my name is on one and I've added a little bit of tradition to this great university means so much to me."

Griffin and Cassady, among the past winners standing behind Smith when he stepped to the podium Saturday night, were among the first to welcome their fellow Buckeye into the elite fraternity.

Before leaving for New York and the Heisman announcement, Griffin was asked if Smith deserved to be mentioned among the elite players ever at Ohio State.

"He should be in that conversation," Griffin said. "At least in my opinion, he certainly's the best quarterback that I've seen at Ohio State and we've had some dog-gone good ones. But the performances I've seen out of Troy, they've really been phenomenal."

With Smith at the controls, Ohio State has won its last 19 games, matching the second-longest winning streak in school history. Only a 22-game streak from 1967-69 is longer.

The Buckeyes face No. 2 Florida on Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz., in the national championship game.

Moments after receiving the bronze statue, Smith was already thinking ahead.

"It feels great to get it (the Heisman Trophy) out of the way and move on to the University of Florida and prepare for the national championship game," Smith said.

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006:

Make time to relax and rest this year. Often, you will accept additional burdens and problems; though without question, you have the capability to manage them. Opportunities are sprinkled along your path. You will have to be clear in order to decide which direction to head in. You start a new 11-year luck cycle. Use it well. How you begin this period could define the remaining years. If you are single, you will meet many potential suitors. The problem lies in that you have so much on your plate, relating could become difficult. If you are attached, you head in a new direction together. Be open and enlist your sweetie's support. VIRGO pushes your buttons.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You discover that many situations aren't like you thought they were. Knowing what is happening could be very important to your ultimate well-being. Tonight: Finish up a project.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your creativity might not hit the bull's-eye in a way that pleases you. Understanding takes you in another direction with different results. Use compassion when dealing with someone you care about. Challenging someone simply will not work. Tonight: Let bygones be bygones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might have difficulty dealing with someone who seems willful and tough. You can and will handle this per-

son. Trust yourself here. Someone's directness might be offensive. Try another approach. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Pressure builds simply through daily life and your goals. Know when to say "enough" or head in another direction. Easily, a reorganization could be on the table. Evaluate before you decide what someone else is thinking. Perhaps asking might be more effective. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Try as you might, a risk isn't what you need right now. Walking the conservative path is. Face facts: You cannot control others, nor do you really want to. How much is the challenge motivating you? Be honest with yourself. Tonight: Revamp your gift list.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover, and you will. Opposition occurs where you least expect it. Allow yourself to tune in to someone's reasoning. Walk in this person's shoes. With understanding, the two of you will gain and grow. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Take your time, especially if you feel that someone has hurt you in some way. Could you possibly be overreacting or doing something a bit different? Walking away or thinking about a situation in a new light will help. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Realize that you might not have as much control as you would like. Be specific with someone you care about, especially if finances are involved. Sometimes you might have no choice but to say "no."

Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take a stand, even if you might be uncomfortable. Others want to know you better. Criticism isn't as personal as you might take it. The issue could be the other person and how he or she looks at his or her life. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Every time you attempt to gain a perspective, it appears you sabotage yourself. Test your ideas on several people rather than make assumptions. You will be much happier. A different type of thinking opens doors. Tonight: Read between the lines.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might feel as if you are taffy being pulled in two directions. At the base of this tension, a friend thinks one way yet a partner clearly steers you in another direction. You will need to work with what you want. Tonight: Decide which side your bread is buttered on.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might feel pulled in different directions. When you attempt to steer a course, you become very uncomfortable and wonder what you are doing. Others challenge you, no matter what you do. Tonight: Easy does it.

BORN TODAY

Singer, actor Frank Sinatra (1915), singer Dionne Warwick (1940), former mayor of New York City Ed Koch (1924)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

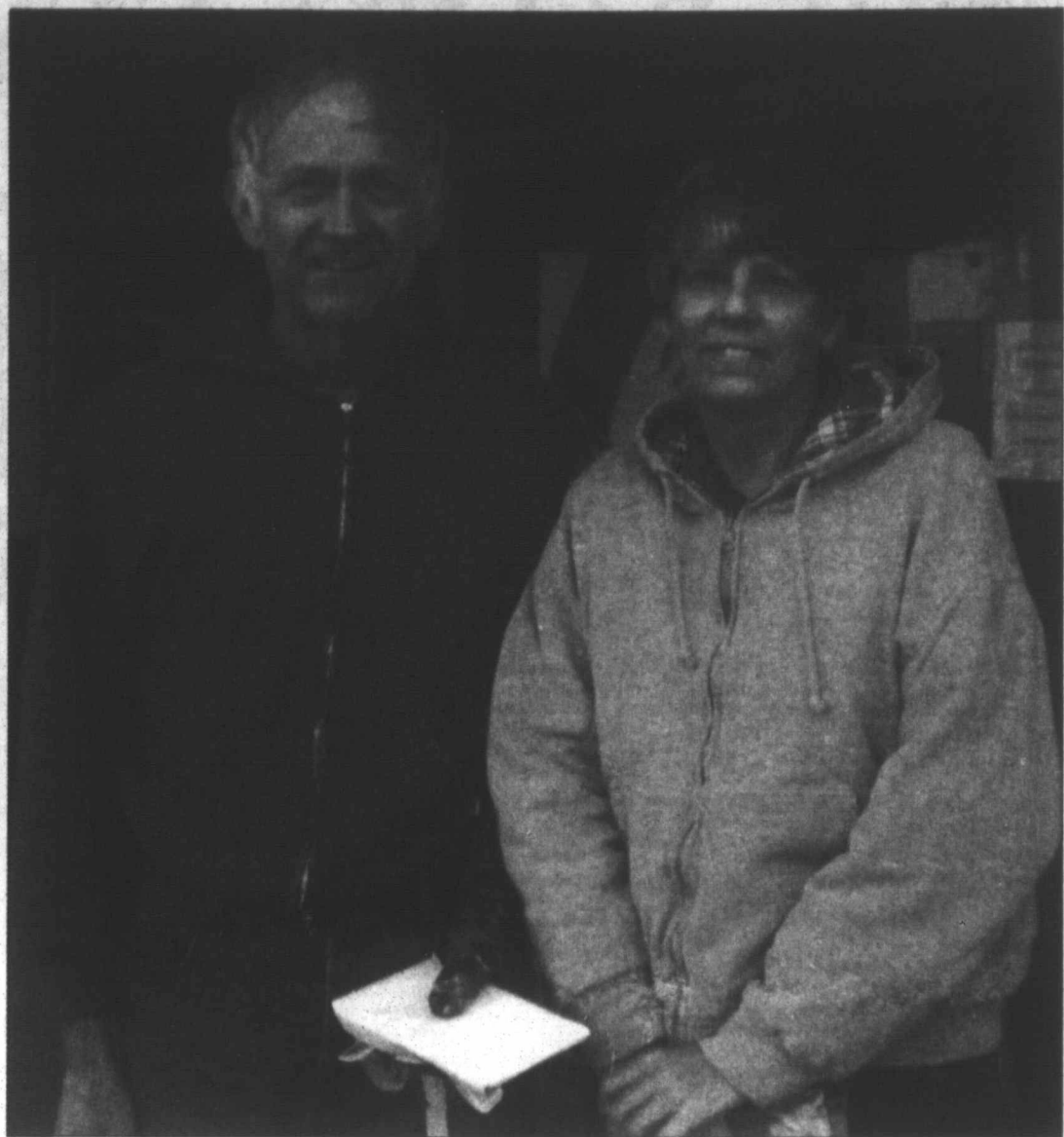
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COURTESY PHOTO

In recognition of an outstanding safety record for 2006, Aaron Hunt, left, of Cameron Compression Systems in Pampa, was recently presented with a special award jacket by Area Service Manager D.W. Stidham.

Shop Pampa & Win



COURTESY PHOTO

Kenneth and Marilyn Lee recently won \$600 in Pampa Bucks as part of the Chamber of Commerce's holiday "Shop Pampa & Win" campaign.

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Scientists tackle mysteries of the deep

WASHINGTON (AP) — Peering deep into the sea, scientists are finding creatures more mysterious than many could have imagined.

At one site, nearly 2 miles deep in the Atlantic, shrimp were living around a vent that was releasing water heated to 765 degrees Fahrenheit. Water surrounding the site was a chilly 36 degrees.

An underwater peak in the Coral Sea was home to a type of shrimp thought to have gone extinct 50 million years ago.

More than 3 miles beneath the Sargasso Sea, in the Atlantic, researchers collected a dozen new species eating each other or living on organic material that drifts down from above.

"Animals seem to have found a way to make a living just about everywhere," said Jesse Ausubel of the Sloan Foundation, discussing the findings of year six of the census of marine life.

Added Ron O'Dor, a senior scientist with the census: "We can't find anything where we can't find anything new."

This year's update, released Sunday, is part of a study of life in the oceans that is scheduled for final publication in 2010. The census is an international effort supported by governments, divisions of the United Nations and private conservation organizations. About 2,000 researchers from 80 countries are participating.

Ausubel said there are nearly 16,000 known species of marine fish and 70,000 kinds of marine mammals. A couple of thousand have been discovered during the census.

The researchers conducted 19 ocean expeditions this year; a 20th continues in the Antarctic. In addition, they operated 128 nearshore sampling sites and, using satellites, followed more than 20 tagged species including sharks, squid, sea lions and albatross.

Highlights of the 2006 research included: —Shrimp, clams and mussels living near the super-hot thermal vent in the Atlantic, where they face pulses of water that is near-boiling despite shooting into the frigid sea.

—In the sea surrounding the Antarctic, a community of marine life shrouded in darkness beneath more than 1,600 feet of ice. Sampling of this remote ocean yielded more new species than familiar ones.

—Off the coast of New Jersey, 20 million fish swarming in a school the size of Manhattan.

—Finding alive and well, in the Coral Sea, the type of shrimp called Neoglyphea neocaledonica, thought to have disappeared millions of years ago. Researchers nicknamed it the Jurassic shrimp.

—Satellite tracking of tagged sooty shearwaters, small birds, that mapped the birds' 43,500-mile search for food in a giant figure eight over the Pacific Ocean, from New Zealand via Polynesia to foraging grounds in Japan, Alaska and California and then back. The birds averaged a surprising 217 miles daily. In some cases, a breeding pair made the entire journey together.

—A new find, a 4-pound rock lobster discovered off Madagascar.

—A single-cell creature big enough to see, in the Nazare Canyon off Portugal.

Satellite rocket launch scrubbed



ATLANTIC, Va. (AP) — The launch of a rocket carrying two satellites for the Air Force and NASA was scrubbed early today because of a problem with the flight software, officials said.

The mission, which would have included the first take-off from the mid-Atlantic region's commercial spaceport, will be postponed until at least Wednesday while the problem is being resolved, said Neal Peck, program manager for the Air Force's TacSat-2 satellite.

Peck described the problem as an "anomaly with the spacecraft flight software." That problem, first discovered Sunday night, would have prevented one of the satellites from getting enough power in space to conduct all its experiments.

"Rather than me standing in front of you in a few hours saying we have a serious problem with a spacecraft on orbit, we've caught it up before we've gone up," Peck said from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, where the spaceport launch pad is located.

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