

Baby positive for drugs; parents arrested

News Messenger Staff

Two Marshall parents have been arrested on child abuse charges after police say their severely malnourished infant also tested positive for narcotics.

Marshall police initiated an investigation into a suspected child abuse case after the child was brought Oct. 12 to Christus Good Shepherd-Marshall's emergency room. The infant was exhibiting signs of severe malnutrition, police said.

"Due to the severity of the in-

fant's condition, the child was subsequently transferred to Children's Medical Center Dallas for specialized medical care, where the infant remains in critical condition," police said Friday in a statement. "During the course of medical treatment, the infant also tested positive for narcotics."

The child's mother, 39-year-old Kristin Akins, was charged with injury to a child causing serious bodily injury. The child's father, Dustin Baronet, 39, was charged with endangering a child.

Baronet was booked into the

Harrison County Jail, while Akins was booked into the Dallas County Jail.

"This remains an active and ongoing investigation," police said. "Detectives continue to examine the circumstances surrounding the infant's condition, and additional information may be released as the investigation progresses."

"The Marshall Police Department takes allegations of child abuse and neglect seriously and remains committed to protecting the safety and well-being of children within our community."



Kristin Akins and Dustin Baronet have been arrested on child abuse charges. (Contributed Photos)

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Marshall High School students groups cheer on Mavericks at community homecoming pep rally



News Messenger Staff

Marshall High School students rallied and cheered for their Mavericks on Thursday ahead of Friday's homecoming game.

The school held its annual homecoming carnival and pep rally welcoming community members, students and alumni.

The annual bonfire was canceled because of a burn ban.

Spirit groups including the band, cheerleaders, color guard, Mavettes and JROTC made special presentations.

This year's Homecoming Court also was recognized. Seniors in the court are Gabriella Black, Daisy Ramirez, Betsy Baez, Naveah James, Yonatan Serrato, Jagger Abernathy, Evan Zaragoza and Errick Clough. The remainder of the court is junior prince Lexani Gaona and princess Breah Hawkins; sophomore prince Kai'Lian Charles Bass and princess JaiLeigh Jones; and freshman prince Ryan Velazquez and princess Adeline Gaona.



Marshall High School students groups take part in a community pep rally and carnival Thursday ahead of the Mavericks' homecoming game. (Lia Portillo/Marshall News Messenger)

Senate race could hinge on Cornyn supporters

BY PHILIP JANKOWSKI AND JOSEPH MORTON

The Dallas Morning News

They lost their candidate. Now they could help decide who wins.

Republicans who backed John Cornyn in his bitter Senate primary fight against Ken Paxton are among the most coveted voters in Texas. But many are struggling with where to land in November: Stick with Paxton, cross party lines for Democrat James Talarico or sit out the race altogether.

About 910,000 Texans voted for Cornyn in the March Republican primary. A little more than 500,000 backed him in the May runoff, which he lost to Paxton by nearly 28 percentage points.

They make up only a sliver of the Texas electorate, but in a Senate race this close, the Cornyn bloc has become one of the biggest prizes in the Nov. 3 election.

"Paxton's fate is in the hands of those moderate Republicans, who he and many of his colleagues have long vilified – the Cornyn voters, the Bush voters," said Rice University political scientist Mark Jones.

Paxton, the attorney general, has leaned on President Donald Trump's endorsement to rally the GOP base, while Talarico, an Austin state representative, has emphasized unity and affordability to attract disaffected Republicans.

Cornyn's supporters are squarely in the sights of both campaigns. Interviews by The Dallas Morning News reveal deep divisions among them over Paxton's character, loyalty to the Republican Party and Democrats' efforts to win them over.

Real estate agent

Adora Gnuschke, a 39-year-old Cedar Park real estate agent, voted for Cornyn in the Republican primary, putting aside her concerns that he wasn't always aligned with the president.

She also questioned the long-time senator's record on issues such as illegal immigration and Second Amendment rights.

Still, she recognized the value of his seniority and had reservations about Paxton's personal

See VOTERS, Page 2A

VOL. 147
NO. 257



\$3.00

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy.
A high of 81,
and a low
around 56.



For a seven-day forecast, see page 5A.

INSIDE

Wiley men's
soccer locks
Jarvis in
scoreless
draw.
Page 4A



Wiley vol-
leyball falls
to Huston-
Tillotson.
Page 4A

ONLINE

Go online to view
archives and the latest
news and updates.



MarshallNewsMessenger.com