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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Family affair

Hoops runs in gene pool for coach Miller, son Reid

Page 8

inside:

Letters to Santa



special insert

Wednesday, December 22, 2010 Volume 106 • No. 220 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Chisum has enough votes to force caucus

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com



Chisum

Pampa's state representative in Austin says he has the votes to force his party to meet and select a Republican nominee for Texas Speaker of the House.

Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, said today that he has the 10 signatures required under caucus rules to force a meeting that he's been requesting for weeks. "We need a Republican cau-

cus to meet and select one conservative candidate for Speaker of the House," Chisum said.

"The voters of Texas have elected a strong overwhelming majority of Republicans to the Texas House of Representatives.

We need to respond to the will of the voters and work together to select a single Republican nominee."

Chisum announced his candidacy for Speaker of the House in October.

He said the Texas House of Representatives needs to unite behind one person for Speaker that will lead the House through the challenges of the next session.

The Texas House of Representatives meets in odd-

numbered years for 140 days in regular session. Their next session begins Jan. 11, 2011.

Chisum said that the Texas House of Representatives has had strong, experienced leadership in the past under Hale Center's Pete Laney, a Democrat, and Midland's Tom Craddick, a Republican.

In more recent history, Chisum said the House's leadership has been weak and ineffective in a divided chamber.

CHISUM cont. on page 3

MAIN EVENT



staff photo by David Bowser

Despite sub-freezing temperatures early in the morning, Rusty Wilkinson (foreground) and Andrew Hernandez dig into the ground near Harvester and Duncan as part of the City of Pampa's project to replace water mains in the area.

Two new clinics to open in '11

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Two new clinics will open in Pampa after the first of the year.

The Genesis Clinic, a community-based not-for-profit clinic, and the Pampa Pediatric Clinic, a for-profit clinic for children, will open near the Pampa Regional Medical Center in February.

The Emergency Medical Services Foundation, parent of Pampa EMS, the city's ambulance service, plans to open The Genesis Clinic to provide access to care for Gray County residents.



Hall

Dr. James Hall, CEO of the EMS Foundation, said this week that they will open a rural health clinic in Pampa about the first of February.

"Patients will be seen based on their medical need," said Joe Anstey, chief administrator. "Not on their ability to pay."

"We'll see everybody," Hall said. Hall said they would see insured, uninsured and county indigent patients.

"You will be seen regardless of your ability to pay," Hall reiterated. With several doctors' offices closing or doctors retiring in **CLINICS** cont. on page 3



Early present for Stephens family Couple wins The Pampa News Wii giveaway

RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampanews.com

The Stephens household is likely to be a lot more active this Christmas.

Jerry and JoAnn Stephens of Pampa were the winners in *The Pampa News*' "Wii Wish You a Merry Christmas!" drawing.

The Stephens' lucky entry was one of hundreds received in the circulation contest. "I read the paper religiously every day," Jerry said.

"And he doesn't like it if he can't find the

paper," chimed JoAnn. The only reservation the couple had about the prize was its operation. "We are going to have to get the grandkids to show us how to use it," Jerry laughed. In fact, one of their grandchildren recently won a Nintendo Wii system in a school contest. "We have other grandkids, though," JoAnn laughed. "We might just hide this until it comes out in the paper and let the kids look in the paper and see our picture in the paper." "They are all coming Thursday for four days," Jerry added. "We'll probably keep it at our house and learn how to use it to play with the kids," he said.

Nominations Needed!

Business of the Year & Citizen of the Year
 To be awarded at the Annual Banquet on March 24, 2011
 Deadline: December 31
 Please email erica@pampachamber.com or call 669-3241 for more information and ticket reservations

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AFTERNOON RUSH *Chisum*

Man to forfeit grenade launcher

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A Corpus Christi-area man has pleaded guilty to two weapons charges and will forfeit a grenade launcher and more than 11,000 rounds of ammunition.

Jeremy Charles Davenport of Odem will be sentenced March 9, 2011, and faces up to 10 years in prison on each count.

Davenport on Tuesday pleaded guilty to being in possession of an improvised explosive device when he was arrested Sept. 29 by Corpus Christi police in a domestic disturbance investigation. Davenport also pleaded guilty to being a drug user in possession of 19 firearms, including a machine gun.

Federal law bars the possession of firearms while being an unlawful user of a controlled substance. Davenport, who says he was using cocaine at the time of the incident, remains in custody.

A&M to commemorate Gulf War

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M next month will host a 20th anniversary commemoration of the beginning of Gulf War military operations to liberate Kuwait.

Retired Gen. and former Secretary of State Colin Powell and former Vice Presidents Dick Cheney and Dan Quayle are expected to attend the Jan. 20 event, along with dignitaries from Kuwait.

Former President George H.W. Bush of Houston, whose presidential library is on the campus in College Station, is offering an online invitation to Gulf War veterans.

The Bush School of Government and Public Service, on its website Wednesday, urged veterans of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm to register for and attend "this special Gulf War retrospective."

The event is free and open to the public.

Perry issues disaster proclamation

AUSTIN (AP) — The threat of extreme wildfires has led Gov. Rick Perry to issue a disaster proclamation for most of Texas.

The proclamation covers 244 of the state's 254 counties. Perry says lack of precipitation has dried grass and other vegetation across the state. He says the "significant fire danger" is expected to continue.

The governor says all necessary measures, both public and private, are authorized to be implemented to meet the wildfires threat.

The proclamation was issued Tuesday, on the first day of winter.

45 years for toddler beating

EDINBURG (AP) — A man charged with beating his 2-year-old stepdaughter to death when she wouldn't stop crying as he watched a World Cup match on television has pleaded guilty to murder.

A judge in Edinburg on Tuesday accepted the plea from 28-year-old Hector Castro and sentenced him to 45 years in prison.

McAllen police in June arrested Castro after emergency personnel responded to a report of a girl choking. Police say a screw apparently was forced down her throat in an attempt to make it look like she choked. The girl had been beaten.

Castro had been charged with capital murder and if convicted could have received the death penalty.

McAllen police on Wednesday did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press to provide further details on the victim.

El Paso to get passport office

EL PASO (AP) — The U.S. State Department says El Paso will be getting a passport office next year.

The \$2.1 million El Paso Passport Agency is scheduled to be completed in March. A pre-opening event was held Tuesday.

The office is one of five new passport agencies nationwide.

Vincent Perez, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, says the facility will have the ability to produce and issue passports.

Passport operations spokeswoman Jacqueline Harley-Bell says it normally takes up to six weeks to get a passport processed. The El Paso site will be able to issue U.S. passports and other documents to people with an urgent need to travel within two weeks.

Upgrades for Galveston seawall

GALVESTON (AP) — Galveston's famed seawall is getting \$15 million in improvements that will include four visitor centers with restrooms.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Tuesday for the project that should be completed in May.

The upgrades, including landscaping, solar lighting and historic markers, are being paid for with federal funds and business donations.

The Houston Chronicle reports the first phase is enhancement of the Hampton Battery at Fort Crockett Park.

Research rat 'Old Man' passes

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — For three decades, Old Man selflessly helped scientists unravel the mysteries behind Alzheimer's, osteoporosis, cancer and other age-related diseases.

Born in Kenya, he lived an active life, including siring offspring, until early Thanksgiving, when his body was discovered in a lab at the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies on the campus of the Texas Research Park.

A naked mole rat, Old Man was believed to be 32.

Deaths ruled murder-suicide

PINE SPRINGS (AP) — An East Texas sheriff says the shooting deaths of a woman and her husband at their Pine Springs home appear to be a murder and then a suicide.

The bodies of 71-year-old Bonnie Hays and 68-year-old Billy Hays were discovered Monday.

Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith says Billy Hays apparently shot his wife, then turned the gun on himself.

Smith says deputies earlier Monday were summoned to the residence three times to investigate reports of a burglary earlier this month and an assault.

A motive for the shootings is sought.

Pine Springs is a town of 150 located just southeast of Dallas.

Chisum is challenging Texas Speaker of the House of Representatives Joe Straus, R-San Antonio. Rep. Ken Paxton, R-McKinney, has also challenged Straus.

The Republican caucus uses a pledge card system to elect their nominees. A system in which Straus holds a majority.

The Democrats in the Texas House of Representatives meet to caucus and elect their nominee.

Charging that Straus has effectively bought off some Republican lawmakers, Chisum wants the Republicans to meet and caucus rather than rely on the pledge cards.

Under Republican caucus rules, the party has 10 days to call for a caucus. Chisum is calling for the caucus on Jan. 5, six days before the biennial legislative session is to start.

Chisum needs more than half of the 101 Republicans elected to the Texas House of Representatives to show up for the Jan. 5 meeting.

but he cannot force a quorum to attend.

To date, the executive committees of the Lubbock County Republicans and Harris County (Houston)

Republicans have approved resolutions supporting a caucus. The Texas Constitution requires that all 150 members of the House of Representatives

elect a Speaker the first day of the Legislature, which will be Jan. 11.

Chisum and Paxton have challenged Straus, whom they claim is too moderate.

cont. from page 1

Keep your dog in mind when you deck the halls



MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS
Creator's Syndicate



will keep the pooch out of its water and away from fragile, tasty-looking ornaments.

Utilize the crate. For dogs that are crate-trained, this is the simplest solution to the problem of keeping the chaos of Christmas away from your dog. To properly crate-trained dogs, the crate represents a safe place of his own. Its floor is lined with a fleece bed or a soft blanket.

A few of his favorite toys await inside. It's quiet, comfortable and familiar — qualities dogs love and need, and that are likely to be compromised come Christmastime.

Remember the power of the leash. When used properly, the leash is perhaps the most powerful link between dog and owner. It gives the owner a degree of control he or she might not otherwise have, especially in crowded or overwhelming circumstances, i.e., a holiday party. And it keeps the dog safe.

Whenever you have a high-traffic situation at home — many people coming and going — keep your dog on a leash to help ensure he doesn't slip out and get hit by a car or lost. The last thing you want is to have to make a dramatic exit from your own party to take an emergency trip to the vet.

Accidents happen because people are busy being busy. This holiday season, don't be too busy to give your dog a merry Christmas.

Woof!

Dog trainer Matthew "Uncle Matty" Margolis is co-author of 18 books about dogs, a behaviorist, a popular radio and television guest, and host of the PBS series "WOOF! It's a Dog's Life!"

Clinics

cont. from page 1

Pampa, Hall said there is a huge need.

Hall said the clinic would be open weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. He said the hours have yet to be determined.

"We will see Gray County indigent care patients and uninsured patients," Hall said. "For the indigent and uninsured patients, it's only for Gray County residents only."

Residents of other counties are welcome if they have insurance, he said.

"We plan to stop the out migration of indigent healthcare dollars in our community," Anstey said.

He said that right now it's all but impossible for a Medicaid or Medicare patient to find a primary care physician in the Texas Panhandle.

"We plan to rectify that," Anstey said.



Hall

Dr. John Nguyen, a Pampa pediatrician, will open a separate clinic

in conjunction with The Genesis Clinic in February. "It is a pediatric clinic that I'm opening up," Nguyen said.

He said that there is no Medicaid provider in Pampa.

"What I want to do is open up a pediatric clinic," Nguyen said.

He said that there is a huge need in Pampa for a pediatrician. People now have to go to Borger or Amarillo to see a pediatrician.

"That's the whole reason why we're opening up a pediatric clinic," Nguyen said.

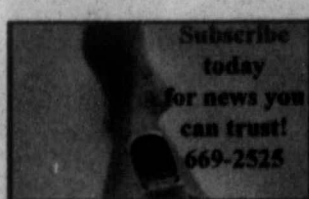
He said his clinic would be open to any pediatric patient.

It will be in the same location as The Genesis Clinic, he said.

"We're not in competition with area providers," Hall said of The Genesis Clinic. "If patients come to us, we will give them a list of area providers."

Hall said if patients choose to go to other clinics, The Genesis Clinic will help them find those providers.

"If they choose not to," he said, "then we will be the clinic. We're just trying to fill a need, a void, in the community."



PET OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by The Pampa News

Your local animal shelter needs donations of the following items:

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"Peter"
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Male Kitten



"Jynx"
Male Kitten



"Skeeter"
Male Border Collie



"Kano"
Male Min Pin Puppy



"Patches"
Female Kitten

For more info about these pets or any other questions, call 806-688-6775 or visit us at the Robert Street Park. All photos of animals can be viewed online at www.cityofpampa.org. The animals can be seen through the window of the shelter any time.

The Shelter is open to the public Mon. - Sat. from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2010. There are 9 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.

On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1808, Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67, Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68, and Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58, had their world premieres in Vienna, Austria.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman said in a message to President Abraham Lincoln, "I beg to present you as a Christmas-gift the city of Savannah."

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, 27, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, Calif. while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.

In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, La., exploded.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1990, Lech Walesa took the oath of office as Poland's first popularly elected president.

Ten years ago: President-elect George W. Bush chose John Ashcroft to be his attorney general. President Bill Clinton granted Christmastime clemency to 62 people, including former U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, who'd been convicted of misuse of public funds.

Five years ago: Astronomers announced the discovery of two more rings encircling the planet Uranus.

One year ago: Assaults gunned down the mother, aunt and siblings of a Mexican marine who was killed in a raid that took out one of Mexico's most powerful cartel leaders.

Today's Birthdays: Former House Speaker Jim Wright is 88. Actor Hector Elizondo is 74. Country singer Red Steagall is 72. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Steve Carlton is 66. ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 65. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 64. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 62. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 62. Singer Robin Gibb is 61. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 59. Actress BernNadette Stanis is 57. Rapper Luther Campbell is 50. Country singer-musician Chuck Mead is 50. Actor Ralph Fiennes is 48. Actress Lauralee Bell is 42. Country singer Lori McKenna is 42. Actress Dina Meyer is 42. Actress Heather Donahue is 36. Actor Chris Carmack is 30. Actor Logan Huffman is 21. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jordin Sparks is 21.

Thought for Today: "A thousand probabilities do not make one fact." - Italian proverb.



We aren't Scrooges — more like Cratchits

Ever been stuck in holiday traffic fighting to be stuck in a holiday cashier's line so you can purchase low-price presents on your high-balance Visa listening to high-volume holiday music and think, "Why am I doing this to myself?! I don't even really LIKE Christmas. It's just a scheme to get me to gain more weight AND gain more debt."

Brian Fairsington - Cagle Cartoons (click to e-mail)

When you're broke, there's nothing like Christmas to make you feel bad about yourself.

Nothing shatters one's contentment more quickly than that ever-looping commercial in which a guy buys his wife a bow-wrapped \$100K Lexus as a "surprise." Every time it airs I think to myself, "My husband would have to put just that bow on layaway, and I'd still KNOW."

But if you confess this deepest of secrets — this latent loathing of holiday "cheer" and the futile materialism of these now six weeks out of the year — someone inevitably hurls the accusation: What are you...a Scrooge?

Yes, Englishman Charles Dickens penned an American Classic. His A

Christmas Carol, published in 1843, is now a staple of the season. It's been remade, re-hashed and re-imagined more times than John McCain's political convictions. In the story a stingy old man hates Christmas until ghosts scare him into being generous. He ends up loving the holiday and all the trimmings.

However, Dickens unknowingly created a character who is now used as propaganda to quash all voices of Christmas Present dissent.

The dreaded: You are a Scrooge.

To which I say: No, I am not. If you read the tale, Scrooge is — wait for it — rich.

This is a widespread yuletide misnomer. It must be stopped now. I'm not even going to comment on Christ never envisioning his birthday plagued by obligatory tchotchke acquisitions; senseless seasonal slaughter of Douglas Firs; or the pointless battle about Wal-Mart greeters muttering "Happy Holidays" (a contraction of holy days) versus the more allegedly pious "Merry Christmas" to an indifferent public.

Charles Dickens, an advocate for the poor, certainly

never meant for Ebenezer Scrooge's name to be applied to those with a paycheck the size of Bob Cratchit's.

Bob Cratchit - Scrooge's underpaid underling - is nice to people all year round even though he's paid hardly anything. You know, Tiny Tim's dad. That's who 98% of Americans are.

We're a nation of Bob Cratchits who are terrified of being Scrooges.

Yes, the difference between a venerable philanthropist and a charitable person — is a charitable person works for a living.

But we want the picture-perfect holiday gift-buying guidebook Christmas. So we fret, agonize and figure out a way. We create for ourselves unnecessary annual stress. And then it all goes on a credit card with interest paid perennially. All because we don't want to be seen as a miser. We have to do Christmas,

or we haven't done something right.

Not giving on Christmas is a moral shortcoming. Or so we're told. Not having money? A sin.

In a Dickensian reality if we haven't made enough money to fall in a certain tax bracket the Ghost of Christmas Past won't ever waste his time with us. Any apparitions 98% of us see are from the 90-proof in our eggnog. Holiday ghosts and specters — we'll call them executive bonuses.

From Cratchit's point of view he just worked hard enjoyed his family and was pleasantly surprised when his boss had a change of heart.

The U.S. poverty rate is now at 14.3%. Our current unemployment is 9.3%. Our once robust middle class is looking a little anemic. The vast majority of us are stretched thin. My point is: It's time to lighten up...mainly on ourselves.

We are not Scrooges. We do, however, work for some (Author's note: except my editor, of course).



TINA DUPUY

Tina Dupuy is an award-winning writer and fill-in host at The Young Turks.

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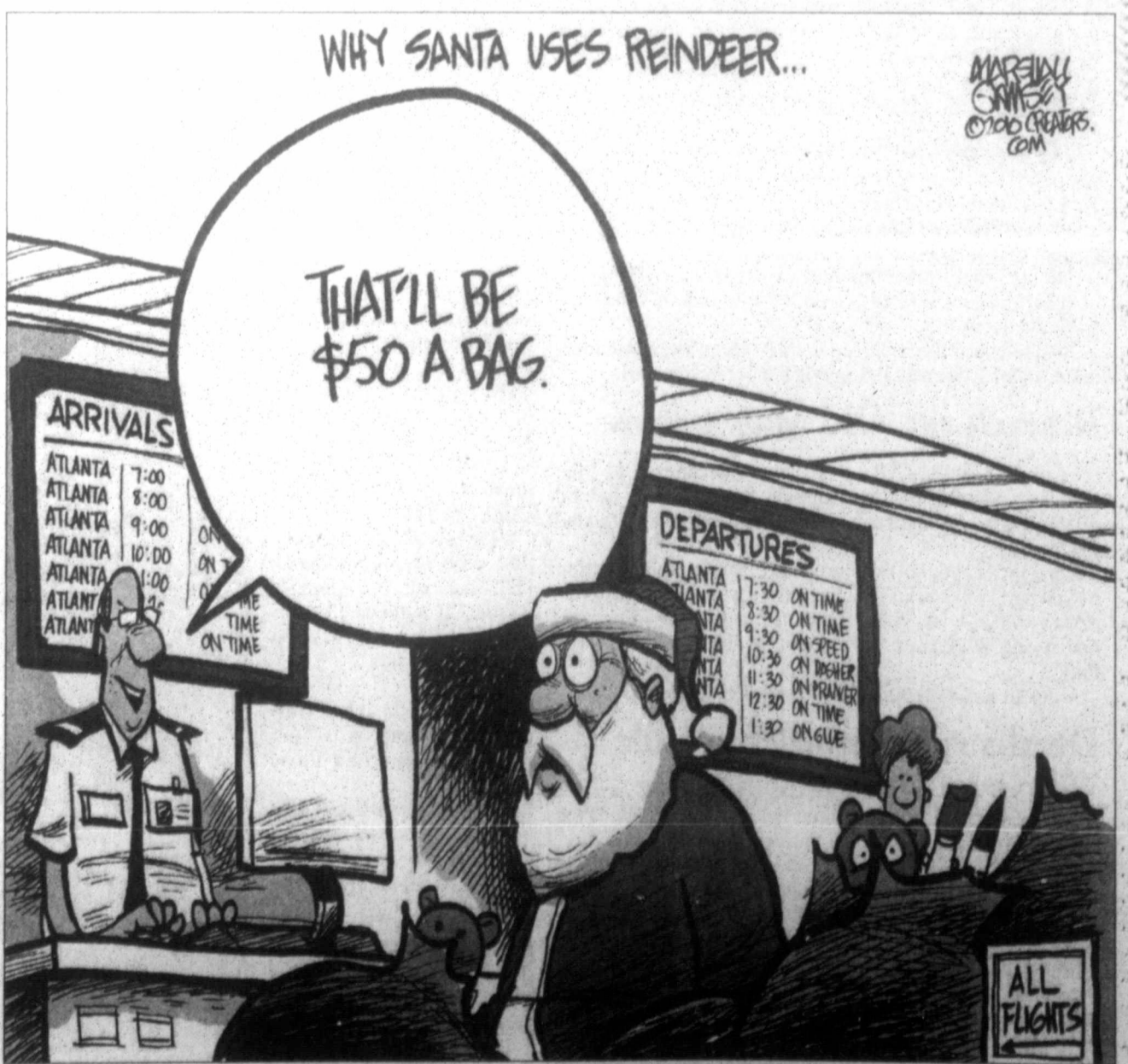
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Fight looming over four new Texas Congressional seats

AUSTIN (AP) — A surge of Hispanic residents and other population gains have Texas poised to add more congressional clout than any other state, but a partisan fight now looms over exactly where the new seats should go.

Texas is gaining four seats in the U.S. House, twice as many as Florida, the only other state to pick up multiple ones, according to new population figures announced Tuesday by the U.S. Census Bureau. All told, Republican-leaning states will pick up at least a half dozen House seats thanks to the 2010 census, which found the nation's population growing more slowly than in past decades but still shifting to the South and West.

With Texas Republicans using recent elections to fortify their already solid control of the state Legislature, the political process of redrawing the state's congressional map would seem to benefit the GOP, too.

But Democrats say not so fast. Boyd Richie, chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, said Hispanic and black population growth account for the additional seats, and he vowed to fight for a redistricting plan that takes their numbers into account.

"A legal and fair redistricting process must produce new congressional districts that reflect the Hispanic and African American population growth," Richie

said. "Our Democratic numbers may be down, but we are not out. Democrats cannot and will not allow our voices to be silenced in this critical process."

The Census Bureau said the nation's population on April 1 was 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million a decade ago. The growth rate for the past decade was 9.7 percent, the lowest since the Great Depression. The U.S. population grew by 13.2 percent from 1990 to 2000. Michigan was the only state to lose population during the past decade. Nevada, with a 35 percent increase, was the fastest-growing state.

The new numbers are a boon for Republicans, with Texas leading the way among GOP-leaning states that will gain House seats, mostly at the Rust Belt's expense. Following each once-a-decade census, the nation must reapportion the House's 435 districts to make them roughly equal in population, with each state getting at least one seat.

In all, the census figures show a shift affecting 18 states taking effect when the 113th Congress takes office in 2013. The political power follows the high population growth, shifting toward the south and west and away from the industrial Midwest and northeast.

With reapportionment settled, the far more politically divisive process of redistricting is set to begin. In Texas, both major

parties were bracing for a showdown over the state's new residents, beginning a fight that is sure to spark court action. But with Republican supermajorities in the Legislature, the temptation to run the table will be strong.

Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, said if the federal courts don't intervene to compel fairness, Republicans will likely produce a map that gives their party the advantage in three or perhaps even all four of the new seats.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Ornament shape | 1 Cry like a baby |
| 5 Holiday ring | 2 Huron neighbor |
| 11 Vicinity | 3 Inadvertently reveal |
| 12 Make helpless | 4 — Vegas |
| 13 Funny folks | 5 Like Bing's Christmas |
| 14 Devour | 6 Jimmy's successor |
| 15 Floral ring | 7 Omelet start |
| 16 Greek vowels | 8 Devoured |
| 17 Locker room need | 9 "— the season ..." |
| 19 Topper | 10 — up (agitated) |
| 22 Out of style | 16 Ram's mate |
| 24 Plow pioneer John | 18 Norway's capital |
| 26 Small stream | 19 Yule song |
| 27 Proton's place | |
| 28 Mexican farewell | |
| 30 Shows amusement | |
| 31 Puppy cry | |
| 32 Have faith in | |
| 34 Quarry | |
| 35 Plop down | |
| 38 Parcel out | |
| 41 Computer command | |
| 42 Plummer of film | |
| 43 Do origami | |
| 44 Christmas tree stuff | |
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Yesterday's answer

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| 21 Reps.' foes | 34 Sewing aids |
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm pretty sure my husband is addicted to adult porn movies. We have several pornographic DVDs in the house and I can tell when they have been moved. He denies he's watching them, so confronting him again will only make him more angry and possibly push him "underground."

Our sex life, which used to be grand, has become almost non-existent. Do you have any suggestions? — SUSPICIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Yes. Rather than accuse your husband of being a porn addict, start a discussion about what has happened to your sex life. He may need to be examined by his doctor to determine if his problem could be physical. If that isn't the case, then marriage counseling with a licensed therapist might help.

However, it doesn't seem likely to me that a man who views only "several" adult DVDs is a porn addict. Porn addicts are usually glued to their computers at every available spare moment.

DEAR ABBY: I am married for the second time and have two lovely stepsons in their early 20s. Recently they told me that my sister "Gloria" (age 55) had asked them to remove their shirts during a holiday event several years ago. They were teenagers at the time. She told them she wanted to "at least look since she couldn't touch." After that, they no longer wanted to participate in family gatherings.

For the record, Gloria has a history of poor impulse control. She takes medication for it and also to control her temper.

She would verbally bait the older boy, who would then antagonize her until I stopped him from playing a battle of wits with an unarmed person.

My relationship with my sister has always been contentious. She used to beat me when I was a child. She was also controlling and tried to order everyone around. Should I stop having family gatherings? Should I ask other relatives to police her? How do I confront her about the many things she has done? Or should I stop associating with her? — VEXED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR VEXED: Because your sister seems unable to distinguish between what is and isn't appropriate behavior, have a talk with her and tell her what you expect from her before the next family gathering. I see little to be gained from a "confrontation" about what she did in the past.

If Gloria manages not to start trouble at the party, continue to include her. If not, no law says you must. If you don't, be prepared for questions about her absence and answer them directly and honestly.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who is wondering what to say when someone calls me "sir" on the phone. I have heard my voice recorded, and I don't think I sound like a man. Still, it happens. It makes me feel angry and mortified. What do I say? — "MA'AM" IN CINNAMINSON, N.J.

DEAR "MA'AM": You should say, "For your information, I'm a woman." That should clear up any confusion.

comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

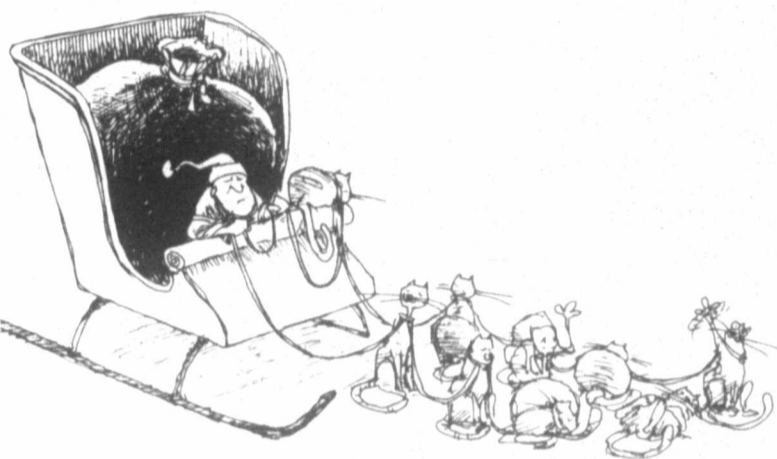
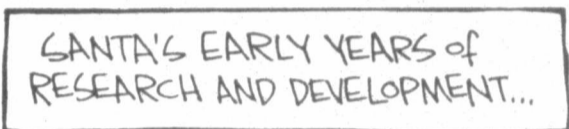


12-22

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"... When the shepherds came they had a place to park their sheep."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010:
This year, open up to different ideas. You are processing and changing right in front of others. Some friends might not notice for a while, while others are amazed. As a result of these profound changes, those closely connected to you grow in new ways, making for stronger ties. Stress results from change. Take better care of your health. If you are single, the person you choose today might not be the person you would choose in a year. Try not to make any major life commitments this year. Simply get to know a special or new person better. If you are attached, the two of you will be breaking new ground, thus adding vigor and excitement to the relationship. LEO zeros in on what is important.
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)
★★★★ Open your eyes to a kid's mindset. You will breeze through work and play with more spontaneity and happiness. Should someone toss a snafu in your path, it won't have an impact. Tonight: Get into the spirit. Go caroling, help decorate a tree or sip eggnog.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might opt to finish up holiday details. At the last minute, you could take on a new project or rush out the door. Did you forget someone? Or is this dash the result of forgetting a work-related matter? Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Finally, you have the right words and others can hear you. Or do they? Someone quite close could act as if he or she hasn't heard you, but you can be sure that you hit the bull's-eye. You don't need to hammer in an opinion. Tonight: Start a round of gift-giving.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Those impulses that encourage you to go out and spend might attack again. Be sure this is what you really want to do. Pressure from a loved one or family member might be dealt with in another manner. Be creative. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Note a new sense of direction when you wake. Follow your instincts. Naturally, you seem to make an adjustment in problem situations, eliminating issues. Your

personality and intellect meld. Others respond to your magnetism. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Be willing to observe. If you feel out of sorts or hurt by another person's comments, consider that you could be unusually sensitive. How much are you playing out an old wound? A child or loved one seeks you out. Tonight: Surround yourself with music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Once more, pressure mounts. How much of this feeling is coming from your own judgments of what you need to do? No one else is pressuring you but you. In that context, you can make another choice. Friends help you let go. Tonight: And the party goes on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be aware of an older relative and his or her expectations. Communication affects your plans. Understanding evolves between you and others. Remember, you are going through a similar experience. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Stop. Take five minutes to reflect on what must be done before Christmas, both personally and perhaps professionally. Don't forget someone who is often in your thoughts but not present. Tonight: Use your imagination.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A partner's or dear friend's approach touches you. Let this person know how much you appreciate his or her support and caring. It is a good time to stop and share on a deep level. Tonight: Be as open as you can be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You give friendship to those you care about. They in return express loyalty and deep caring. Don't fight this open exchange between you and others. You discover the true purpose of this situation. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Listen to what is being shared between you and those who are part of your day-to-day life. Take time today to express your authentic feelings. That might be more important than the Christmas-present ritual. Tonight: Join a co-worker or friend for some holiday cheer.

BORN TODAY
Actress Susan Lucci (1946), French first lady Carla Bruni (1967), actor Harry Shearer (1943)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Sports

Like father, like son: PHS Jr. Miller following dad's steps

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa head boys basketball coach Dustin Miller grew up in Pampa and was the starting quarterback for the Harvesters and a member of the basketball team.

When Miller married his wife Dori, he knew where they should raise their kids.

"We wanted to raise our children first in the community," Miller said. "Secondly, Pampa Harvester sports means everything to me. It's not just basketball, it's Pampa Harvesters, period. When you go to college it's a unique experience. You don't run in to others who say we were the Harvesters."

Miller's oldest son Reid, who is a junior, is following in his footsteps as he has completed his first season as the starting quarterback and is in his second season of varsity basketball.

Reid Miller said his dad got him interested in sports, but it's something that runs in the family.

"It's really because of him," Miller said. "My whole family is around sports and everything we do is around sports. I can't really give it all to him. It's a family deal."

Coach Miller said it's been fun for him to watch his kids grow up in the Pampa sports system.

"It's more special the second time around watching your kids go through it than the first time when it was your turn."

Miller said it's neat that he's gotten to be a starting quarterback for Pampa and joked he's much better than his dad.

"He doesn't compare," Miller said. "His stats were weak. He was weak and that under center offense was weak. All he had

to do was hand it off."

Coach Miller agreed with his son, but said the basketball court is a different story.

"No doubt Reid is the better quarterback," Miller said. "I will still take him in the gym. Reid is pursuing football at the next level. My deal was basketball. I eat, sleep and drink basketball growing up."

Coach Miller said it's been interesting coaching his son the past two seasons.

"A lot of times we go home and go to our separate rooms and don't talk to each other for the sake of our sanity," Miller said. "I'm really quick on the trigger with him. It's easier to get on your son than nine other people's sons. I have to make a conscious effort not to snap with him."

Miller said it was something he had to adjust to.

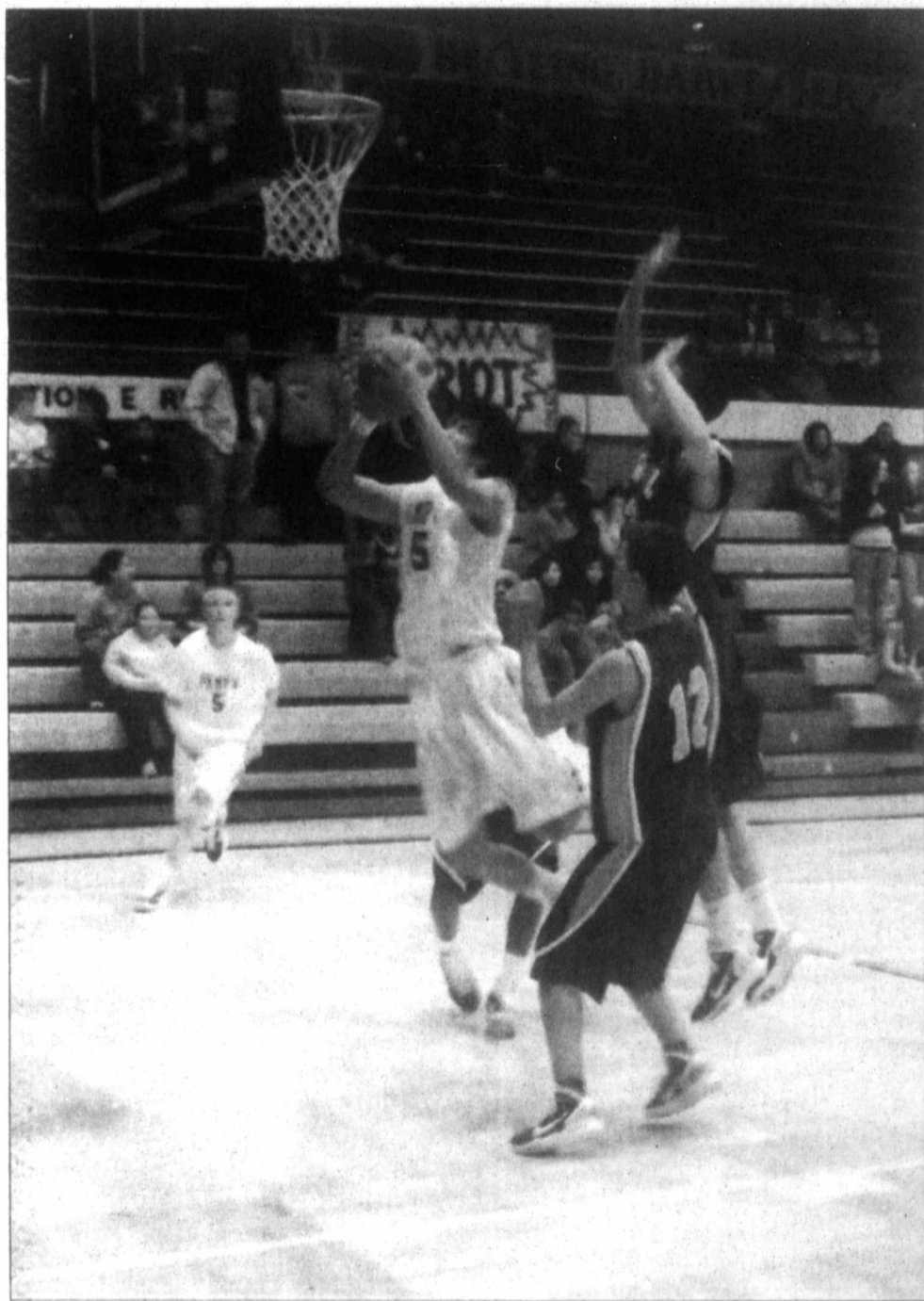
"It's been one heck of an experience," Miller said. "There are not as many privileges as people think. It's something I've had to adjust to and it's not always fun to go home after a loss."

Miller said he does want to follow his dad into coaching.

"I've questioned it a couple times, seeing what he goes through," Miller said. "There's nothing else. Being around sports is what I love, so I don't see myself doing anything different."

Miller has two younger brothers. Trey is playing on the freshman basketball team and Drew is in sixth grade. The junior said they are very competitive with each other.

"We have some heated rivalries in the driveway," Miller said. "If you think it's physical out there, you should see those driveway games. It's bloody, plenty of stuff goes on out there. It's a little dirty, but fun."



staff photos by Andrew Glover

ABOVE: Coach Dustin Miller and Reid Miller discuss things during free throws in the Lions Club Tournament November 26. Both Dustin and Reid said it's been an interesting experience being on the same team. **BELOW:** Reid Miller attempts a layup with San Angelo players closing in. Miller is in his second season of varsity basketball and completed his first season as the Harvesters starting quarterback.

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