

## What's Happening

**Keep Chandler Beautiful** is having a meeting Nov. 20, at 7p.m., in the Community Center in Chandler.

**Christmas Tree Farm** opening day to choose your favorite tree, Friday, Nov. 28. Hay ride, fun and games, bounce house, popcorn and hot chocolate sponsored by Y's Hometown Foods. Hwy 31 between Chandler and Brownsboro next to Auto Pro Transmissions. Call 903-852-5437.

**The annual Colfax Community Women's Bazaar** is scheduled to be held Saturday, November 22 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Colfax United Methodist Church on FM 16. Baked Goods and homemade crafts will be featured, with proceeds to benefit community services provided by the non-profit Colfax Community Women's Group. Festivities will include free tea and cookies served in an old-fashioned English tea room while being entertained by Christmas Carols. Chances will be available to win a beautiful handmade quilt, a wood with glass front quilt box and three 4-foot lawn angels. Participants do not have to be present to win. Call 903-567-6647 for more information.

**O Christmas Tree.** Join us this Holiday Season for the first Brownsboro Community Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by KBB. Tuesday evening, December 2 at the First State Bank of Brownsboro. Festivities will begin at 6:30pm and will include Holiday Cheer, Hot Chocolate, Christmas Carols and a visit from Santa Claus.

**The Annual Christmas Tour of Homes**, sponsored by Women's Unity Fellowship, will be held from 6:00 until 9:00pm Monday, December 8. Tickets and maps are available at Chandler Drug and Chandler Public Library.

**The 7th Annual Brownsboro Young Farmers Auction** will be held at the Brownsboro Theater Saturday, December 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Numerous unique and handcrafted items will be up for bid. A Chili supper will be offered before the auction at 5:30 p.m. and there will also be a special drawing for a \$1,000 prize. Tickets for the drawing are \$20 and may be purchased through Roxie Holley at Chandler Feed & Seed, or at Smiley's Insurance Agency. Drawing participants must be present to win. Further information is available by phoning 903-570-5687.

The Texas Historical Commission, Henderson County Historical Commission, Friends of Henderson County Historical Commission and The Rock Hill Cemetery Association, request the honor of your presence at the **Dedication of the Historical Marker commemorating The Rock Hill Cemetery** Sunday, November 23, 2008. The Dedication will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the Rock Hill Cemetery, across from the Rock Hill Baptist Church.

**The Final Curtain Players** present *Once Upon a Mattress*, the musical on Sat., Nov. 22, at 7p.m., in the BHS theater bldg. Sunday matinee at 2p.m. Admission is free. Canned donations requested.

**Calvary Baptist Church** would like to announce new activities; Children's Church Sunday School classes for all ages, Family Fun Night is the 1st Wed. of each month starting at 6p.m., Adult and Children's Choir and many other exciting happenings. All are welcome to come and worship with us.

**The Thanksgiving Community Worship** service will be held in the BHS auditorium on Sunday, Nov. 23, at 6p.m. All of the community is invited to join.

# Sullivan remembered by community

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

Sean Sullivan, a 16-year-old from Murchison, died November 8 following a vehicle accident, and his passing dealt a blow to Brownsboro Independent School District and Henderson County. Hundreds attended his funeral, among the people there were representatives from 15 fire departments and even the United States Marine Corps.

Scott Martin, a firefighter with Westside Volunteer Fire Department, said you never want to see a kid die, and Sullivan was a good kid with a bright future.

"He was an Explorer with Westside," Martin said. "He was learning about fire service with us, and he was also a junior firefighter with Murchison."

According to Martin, there was rarely a time when Sean was seen without some kind of uniform on his shoulders. He was with the police explorers out of Tyler and had his entry into the Marine Corps after school planned out.

"He had a lot of energy," Martin said. "Here was a good kid who wanted to make things better."

The student was also involved with Sand Springs Baptist Church, and was

scheduled to join the church officially on the Sunday after the crash.

The Saturday afternoon Sullivan died, his vehicle was traveling on CR 3800, north of Murchison. The police report stated he was traveling at an unsafe speed and left the road, crashing into a tree. He later died at ETMC Athens, though his passenger, 14-year-old Ricky Harris, wasn't injured.

Sullivan is the fourth BISD student this year lost to a vehicle accident.



Sean Sullivan

Martin said there are three things for the schools and parents to consider: are students being taught to drive, are the lessons being followed up on and are the students being supported?

The school's Community in Schools program is working to put together a driving safety program for the students.

Kenneth Wooten, Brownsboro High School principal, said he and Sullivan had conversations, visits, about life in general.

"Sean was one of those kids who didn't know a stranger," Wooten said. "He was a good kid, good-hearted. That's the kind of

person he was."

Sullivan's goal was to become a marine and continue his firefighting; he connected with those groups, Wooten said.

"We miss him," the principal added. "He was a great, kind-hearted student."

He added quite a few students have been to counseling sessions following Sullivan's death; the wounds left by the passing of the Cummings' brothers having not fully healed.

"Every day gets a little better," Wooten said.

A candlelight vigil was held for Sean Wednesday, November 12.

# BISD transportation department works to keep costs low

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

During the 2007-2008 school year, it cost Brownsboro Independent School District \$2.88 per bus each mile for maintenance. Less than half of this is paid by the state, and so it falls on Transportation Director Chester York and his department to keep costs low while keeping service quality high.

"Our district," York said, "covers a 200 square mile area. Up to 195 are in Henderson County, five are in Van Zandt."

The bus routes go to Henderson County lines, to two separate Intermediate and Elementary schools and one special needs bus even goes to Tyler. Even though this bus runs upward of 28,000 miles a year, it saves the school

money because it services the hearing impaired students, a program that would be costly for BISD to employ.

There are 38 total bus routes - six are special needs routes - with a total of 44 buses.

All buses need to have the students in school in time for breakfast before 8am.

"This is no later than 10 till 8am, so we had to be creative," York said.

An example provided was the transfer points some buses use. Two buses would pick up all ages in two areas and meet at a transfer point to exchange the students. One bus takes the pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students to the Chandler campuses, while the other takes the rest to Brownsboro. This scenario makes the task of getting all the kids where they're sup-

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Nathan Straus Photo

BISD school buses in a row await fuel, service and drivers for the busy afternoon ahead

# Final Curtain Players to open with a musical



Nathan Straus Photo

Brownsboro High School theater students practice their work on *Once Upon a Mattress*. The musical will happen Nov 22 and 23.

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

Brownsboro High School's theater department is ready to showcase a high-energy musical number for the Brownsboro Independent School District community. The musical is called *Once Upon a Mattress*, a comic and offbeat retelling of *The Princess and the Pea*.

Theater Director David Young said the musical is about a prince, the son of a controlling, overbearing mother who devises outra-

geous tests for prospective princesses to beat.

"They come to Winifred, princess 13, who is completely different from what the mother thinks a princess should be," Young said.

Up to about 30 theater students will take part in the presentation. The first showing will be November 22 at 7pm, the second on November 23 at 2pm. Both shows will be in the Brownsboro theater building behind the football field.

The musical is free to attend, but Young said he is asking for

a canned food donation from each audience member.

"It's so close to Thanksgiving and we wanted to do something for the community," he said.

Admission is one canned food item, but theater-goers are certainly free to bring more.

Young said all who attend will be treated to a fun evening or afternoon.

"This is the show that launched Carol Burnett's career," he said. "It's high energy, with song and dance, and

appropriate for all ages."

The students have put a lot of hard work into the upcoming program, Young stated, and have practiced long hours every night to bring the storytelling to perfection. In addition, they have learned challenging dance routines and are eager to show what they've learned.

"They're talented; when they get it, they get it and it sounds great," Young said.

In addition, parents of theater students have put time

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# Brownsboro budget fine

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

The Brownsboro City Council met Thursday, November 13, to review the city budget. After a look at how each item in the budget packet was doing, the council came to the conclusion the budget expenditures and revenues are on the right track.

Brownsboro Mayor Ronny Harris said "Water and sewer was down some, general fund was up" about the October budget report. The current target is 33.3 percent of the overall budget for each item.

Office supplies is at \$2,233.53 of \$3,800, putting this item at 41.2 percent. Electricity is also above the target area, standing at 45.6 percent of its \$27,000 expenditures budget.

"We feel that will adjust downward some," Harris pointed out.

Gas and oil sits at 42.7 percent of its \$13,000 budget.

Items like health insurance, garbage contract and miscellaneous are well under the budget expenditures goal.

Attorney fees is at a balance of \$100 of its \$800 budget. Harris said, "We will probably need to adjust that in December."

Overall, the expenditures are at 32.7 percent of the \$443,150 total.

Revenues are up to 34 percent of the revenue total. Items like city sales tax and fines and fees are way up, fines and fees being near 50 percent of its revenue allot-

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