

Area Obituaries

(Continued from page 2)

Kevin Walker

Services for Kevin Walker, 33, Athens, were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Mount Zion Baptist Church of Blackjack community with the Rev. Jaime Clark-Soles, Travis Cox and Teri Walker officiating. Burial was in Blackjack Cemetery under direction of Carroll-Lehr Funeral Home, Athens. Mr. Walker died November 16, 2008 in a Dallas hospital. He was born March 9, 1975, in Athens to Woodrow Harvey and Neva Gail Baker Walker. He graduated from Brownsboro High School, attended Texas A&M University and Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo., and received his bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Arlington. He taught at St. Anthony School in Dallas for seven years, moved to Athens two years ago and worked for Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Survivors include his parents, Woodrow and Neva Walker; brother, Harvey Lynn Walker, Athens; one nephew; four nieces; and other relatives. If desired, memorials may be made to Blackjack Cemetery Association, 8399 FM 1803, Athens, 75752.

Oscar Manoy, Jr.

Services for Oscar J. Manoy, Jr., 66, Chandler, were held at noon Saturday in Antioch Baptist Church with the Rev. Donald Smith officiating. Burial was in Friendship Cemetery, Chandler, under direction of John R. Harmon Undertaking Co., Tyler. Mr. Manoy died November 6, 2008, in a local nursing home. He was born December 22, 1941, in Henderson County and was a lifelong resident. He attended Central High School and was a member of Antioch Baptist Church. Survivors include his mother, Emma D. Manoy; brothers, Willis R. Manoy, Alphonsoy Manoy and Frank Manoy, all of Dallas; and sisters, Jewel March, Charlotte Frater and Glenda Turner, all of Dallas and Gloria Hayter, Tyler.

Charles R. Pillow

Services for Charles R. Pillow, 74, of Athens were held at 10 a.m Monday at Carroll-Lehr Funeral chapel with Rev. Russell Kuhns officiating. Burial followed at Oaklawn Memorial Park. Mr. Pillow died Friday, November 14, 2008. He was born October 15, 1934 in El Dorado, Arkansas to the late Earnest C. and Ophelia Strange Pillow. In 1966 Charles moved with his family to England and spent four years in the oil exploration industry working offshore in the North Sea. He returned to Athens in 1970 and for 15 years owned and operated Pillow's Texaco in Murchison and later Kidd-Jones Chevron. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, William Troy Pillow; and grandsons, Donnie and Cliff Pearsons. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Ruby Nell Pillow, Athens; sons, Charles Wayne Pillow and wife Cindy, Kansas, Oklahoma, William Mark Pillow and wife Debbie, Glen Rose; daughter, Rebecca Lynn Johnson and husband Tony, Brownsboro; brother, Bobby Lee Pillow and wife Maggie Nell, Brownsboro; sister-in-law, Lura Nell Pillow, Athens; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and numerous nieces and nephews. Pallbearers were Denny Sims, Ricky Smiley, Ronald Owens, DeWayne Phillips, Doug Perkins and Jerry McCool. Honorary pallbearers were Lee Tackett and Dr. Curtis Grey. If desired, memorials may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1943, Athens, TX 75751.

★ Transportation department

(Continued from page 1)

posed to be work out, even in situations such as Coffee City where the students live far from the school.

"If the buses didn't do that, our kids would get here between 8:30 and 9am. It's impossible to do this with one bus route," York said. "I'm surprised it works so well. Two buses, for example, go to the transfer point by Martin Springs and within two minutes these buses have met and gone."

York said he wanted to fill district tax payers in on some of the ways the school keeps costs low for them.

"All the buses go out in the same direction, but they take the shortest routes back," the transportation director said. "We also encourage home buses, buses that are taken home with drivers at the end of the day. This cuts fuel consumption and, believe it or not, absenteeism."

A no idling rule has been added where bus drivers must turn off their buses if they are going to idle for more than three minutes. In addition, a 10-minute maximum warm up period has been declared, so drivers can't leave the vehicles warming up for more than 10 minutes before they take them to the routes.

Buses must take the most direct route on the return trip, though the bridge-out at FM 317 has caused some grief, York said.

The downed bridge isn't the only thing the transportation department has to keep tabs on. With such high costs for the department, it makes sense to save money wherever possible. "We watch everything we spend," York said. "We get three to four bids every time we order fuel."

The department has fuel and light mechanics who, every day, gas up and fully inspect half the BISS fleet. Each vehicle parks in the same spot each day where it is inspected and made ready; if there's a problem, the mechanics instantly know which van is ailing and which driver needs to be notified. It is because of these inspections the buses are able to continue working and going where they need to be.

"We don't have the facilities in Chandler to service these

buses," York said. "If they stayed in Chandler after dropping off the kids then they wouldn't get serviced or fueled."

A school day in the life of one of these buses starts before 6am, when the first bus leaves the transportation department to pick up students. The last one pulls out at 7:05am, and 25 minutes later the first buses begin returning, having dropped the students off at school. The buses ferry up to 1,900 students and travel about 200 square miles twice each day. After the buses are all in their parking spots, the last one returning close to 8am, half the fleet is inspected, then the buses are off again at about 3pm following a final inspection. By 3:35 all the buses have left, and from 4:05 to 4:55 they return again for lockup.

"What I did when we re-drew the routes," York stated, "no kid would be on the bus more than an hour. This is tough in some places, though."

If the buses meant to ferry students to and from school in Chandler were to be left in Chandler after delivering stu-

dents to school there would be no safe place to put the buses, and no backup plan should one of the buses fail to start on the return trip. While such breakdowns are rare thanks to the constant maintenance the vehicles receive, any machine can nonetheless have any number of errors that need immediate fixing.

Chester York added if the school did decide to keep the Chandler buses in Chandler to save on gas costs it would only save 144 miles each week for all the buses combined. In addition, if one of the buses should break down, it would take 30-45 minutes to get another bus or mechanic from Brownsboro to Chandler to assist.

York said he wants any taxpayers with questions to come visit the transportation department for a grand tour of the facility. In addition, the bus routes are available online at www.brownsboro.k12.tx.us under the Bus Routes button.

He added he's proud of his department, and of the fact he didn't have any open positions to fill from last year, meaning all his drivers returned after summer.

Letters To The Editor

Please review Letter to the Editor policy before submitting letter. The policy is found in the information column on page two.

We of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 101, Athens, Texas, would like to speak for all the military veterans in this area in thanking Coach Mayse, of the Brownsboro ISD and Mrs. Cindy Bailey of the Murchison ISD, for their time and efforts donated to the abso-

lutely outstanding veteran's programs held at their schools. The programs were second to none! They made us proud. I would also like to thank the faculties and students of these schools for their attentive and patriotic support. We are truly blessed by God

to be fortunate enough to live in a community and country such as this. GOD BLESS AMERICA! With respect, Kenneth Bragg, Commander, Chap. 101 Disabled American Veterans Athens, TX 75751

BES PTO Quilt raffle winner announced



Courtesy Photo

The winner of the Brownsboro Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization quilt raffle was Julie Lauer of Chandler. Her daughter Linzy is a student at Brownsboro High School. Congratulations!

Contact the Statesman at 903-852-7641

MADDOX air conditioning, inc. "Serving East Texas Since 1937" Call: 903-592-6531 or 1-800-256-MADX (6239) Tom Maddox License # TACLA003795C



Do You Have A Safe Deposit Box?

Everyone should have a safe place to store important papers, valuables and hard-to-replace items.

A Safe Deposit Box is a smart, inexpensive place to keep and protect your belongings from fire, theft, or loss.

For only pennies a day, a Safe Deposit Box can provide maximum security and peace of mind.



Branch Hwy 31E 903-469-4600 Athens Bank 609 S. Palestine Athens, TX

Hwy. 31 W. 903-852-6911 - www.fsbrownsboro.com Murchison



Member FDIC

© VJ

DO YOU PREPARE MORE FOR FAMILY VACATIONS THAN YOU DO FOR COLLEGE?

Having fun with your family is important. But nothing is more vital than your child's future. That's why at Edward Jones we can help you put together a strategy to pay for college.

Using our college calculator, we can estimate future expenses at over 3,000 schools, and then recommend a financial strategy based on your own unique needs. True, vacations are great. But graduation ceremonies are even better.

For a free personalized college cost report, call your local financial advisor today.

Tony Kalawe 601 East Corsicana Street Athens, TX 75751 903-675-0245

Dan Weber 813 S Palestine St Athens, TX 75751 903-675-9271

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING