

## What's Happening

The Calvary Baptist Church Bread For Life Distribution (BOLD) effort will be hosting a special **Christmas Food Pantry** event this Saturday, December 20 from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. There will be free toys for children, as well as a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. For more information call 903-852-2506

**Sign-up is now underway for the Brownsboro Little Dribblers 2009 season.** Applications are available online at [www.league lineup.com/bbgirls](http://www.league lineup.com/bbgirls) or may be picked up at Brownsboro, Chandler and Murchison elementary and intermediate schools. **Last day to register is January 5, 2009.** Anyone interested in coaching should contact Scott Williams at 903-681-2111

**The Henderson County Humane Society Animal Shelter** in Athens is having its next **Adopt A Buddy Day** at Tractor Supply in Athens **Saturday, December 20**, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The adoption fee is \$80.00. This fee includes spay/neuter, worming and shots. Several dogs from the shelter will be available for adoption. Please come by and check them out. Shelter hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more info please call 903-677-PETS (7387) or e-mail [hchspets@embarqmail.com](mailto:hchspets@embarqmail.com)

Chandler/Brownsboro Area Chamber of Commerce's **Christmas Tree Open House** will be held Thursday, December 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. for more information Call Bertha 903-849-5930

**Lake Palestine United Methodist Church** has collected the best recipes from group members, family, and friends and compiled them into an attractive, keepsake cookbook. The cookbooks may be purchased from any church member, or at the church. All proceeds will go to the Angel Food Trailer Fund. The cookbook contains 357 recipes. For more information contact the Church Office at 903-849-2379

**Parkside Shores** community will be celebrating the New Year with a special **New Year's Bash Wednesday, December 31 from 8:00 p.m. until Midnight.** Good music from the Back Roads Band, prizes every hour and Great Food! A Happy New Years to All!!

**Keep Brownsboro Beautiful** will meet January 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brownsboro Community Center.

**Call to Recovery**, a 12-step program, gathers every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Leagueville Baptist Church.

**Music Nite at Parkside Shore.** Great Country, Gospel and 50's music. First and Third Monday from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Free food, free music and Lots of Fun. Donations are appreciated. Call Nancy at 903-849-1965 or Gwen at 903-849-4180

**East Texas Gem and Mineral Society** meets on the first Monday each month at 6:45 p.m. at Discovery Science Place, 308 N. Broadway in Tyler. Call Annette for more info at 903-849-6314.

Looking for all **BHS Classmates of 1994.** Visit [www.brownsboro1994.ning.com](http://www.brownsboro1994.ning.com) to register.

**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.  
(Continued on page 6)

# Two-vehicle accident leads to fatality

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

Chandler police and volunteer firefighters responded to the scene of a tragic accident Friday evening around 5:45pm. Two vehicles were involved in a head-on collision on FM 315 South that soon left one driver dead.

Police Chief Ron Reeves said the accident occurred on FM 315 about a mile south of Chandler.

Holly Bircher, 54, was in her blue Toyota Corolla traveling southbound when she blacked out while going up a hill. Reeves said she had been on dialysis and, when she blacked out, her foot pressed down on the gas pedal and she accelerated.



Courtesy Photo

The scene of the accident Friday evening. The collision resulted in one fatality

"Witnesses stated they did not see a driver, and this leads us to believe she had blacked out and slumped over prior to the crash," Reeves said.

The Corolla moved into oncoming traffic and the first vehicle whose driver saw her managed to swerve out of the way, but the second vehicle, a Chevrolet Impala, or possibly a Malibu, struck Bircher's car.

"The Chevrolet was behind another car that swerved to miss her," Reeves said. "He had no time for reaction."

Bircher was transported to ETMC Tyler, where she was pronounced dead.

The official police report for this incident has not been released at the time of this paper's deadline.

## BISD OKs new truck for agriculture program

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

The Brownsboro Independent School District approved the purchase of a new truck for the school's vocational agriculture program Monday. The decision came as part of the school board's monthly meeting.

Up for purchase was a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado.

School Superintendent Elton Caldwell said, "This vehicle is to be purchased with excess funds specifically for our vocational agriculture program."

The school must spend these funds or they will be lost.

Board members Jeffrey Fulgham and Dusty Wise made the motion and seconded, respectively, to approve the purchase.

The vocational agriculture program also saw an approval for a new cattle trailer. The cattle trailer, from Cherokee in Oklahoma City, will cost around \$15,900, likewise purchased from excess funds for the vocational agriculture program.

Wise and Fulgham made the motion and seconded, respectively, to approve the purchase.

A policy update, policy update 84, was up for approval as well. Affecting LOCAL policies, this update was approved by the board with Wise making the motion and Joey Ridgle, board member, seconding.

In addition, there was a revision of Policy FDA (LOCAL) for the board to dis-

cuss. Ridgle and Fulgham made the motion and seconded to approve this, respectively.

It was time for the board to cast ballots for the election of an individual to place five on the Henderson County Appraisal District Board of Directors. This person, Ronny Harris, mayor of Brownsboro, was approved by the board last month. Wise and Ridgle made the motion and seconded, respectively, to cast the school district's ballots for Harris.

There were a few informational reports for the board to hear. One was from Transportation Director Chester York about all the hard work the transportation department undertakes each day to keep the buses mov-

(Continued on page 12)



Nathan Straus Photo

Chester York speaks to the BISD Board of Trustees about transportation operations

## Chandler approves park concessions project

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

The Chandler city council voted December 9 to approve remodeling the concession stand at Winchester Park on FM 315 South. The project will expand the size and scope of the concession stand to accommodate increased business.

Funds for the project were provided by ETMC Clinic, Trinity Mother Frances Clinic, Southside Bank, Kidd Jones Oil, Citizens National Bank, Citizens State Bank, BMC Boys Baseball and the Chandler-Brownsboro Area Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Ann Hall made the motion to approve the remodeling, and Gene Giger, council member, seconded.

Mike Sugre came to address the council concerning his SilverLeaf at Chandler project. This construction was to be a retirement community on FM 2010. Because of the economy troubles of late, certain problems have arisen that have put the original plan in doubt, and he informed the council of all the possible outcomes, among which are other ways to finance SilverLeaf.

The council heard from Tom Rushing concerning a grant awarded from the Division of Emergency Management (FEMA) to the city of Chandler. The grant is \$88,428.36 and is for the police and fire departments, and the money will be used to place a repeater antenna on the water tower near Winchester Park. This antenna will increase the clarity of communications between the emergency departments. The money will also be used for other new equipment such as radios for police cars and fire trucks.

Giger and Hall made the motion and seconded to accept this grant, respectively.

Also up for consideration was Texas Community Development Block Grant Contract No. 728620, a water well at Sportsman's Paradise. New numbers were brought to the council's attention. The city's portion of this \$360,250-\$360,500 project is \$224,460. Hall and Giger made the motion and seconded, respectively, to accept this contract.

There were two positions to be filled by the council's authorization. Ron Reeves, Chandler Police Chief, was named the Emergency Man-

(Continued on page 12)

## Brownsboro extends holiday days-off

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

The Brownsboro City Council voted Thursday, December 11, to extend the city's work holidays to include the day after Christmas and the day after New Year's Day. This is similar to what the council did for the day after Thanksgiving, but no decisions on these two days were made when the council voted to give city employees the day after Thanksgiving off.

Brownsboro Mayor Ronny Harris said, "We looked at this last month, but it wasn't on the agenda and so no action was taken."

Action was taken for this meeting. Council members Randal Clayton and Len Vest made the motion and seconded, respectively, to approve the extra days off.

As usual, the council members took a detailed look at city finances.

When the city makes its mid-year budget adjustments, several items could be changed as

far as their allotted budget total goes.

Among the items to be possibly raised in the general fund are office supplies, electricity, new equipment and patrolman. Under revenues, garbage, miscellaneous and building permits could see a reduction, while city sales tax and fines and fees might bump up.

The water and sewer budget could also see some big changes. Dues, fees and schools could go from \$5,000 to \$7,500, and similar increases could hit gas and oil, equipment repair and miscellaneous. Electricity might be dropped to \$45,000 from \$48,000, and other drops are up for consideration with overtime, office supplies and new equipment.

Overall, the general fund stands at an expenditure balance of \$253,873.48 of \$443,150. This is a 42.7 percent expenditure rate: 1.1  
(Continued on page 12)

## Highway 31 crash nonfatal

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

Brownsboro and Chandler volunteer fire departments responded Monday afternoon to a two-vehicle accident on Highway 31 between Chandler and Brownsboro. No serious injuries

were reported, though one vehicle involved was totaled.

According to a police report by Highway Patrolman Eric Kendrick, the two vehicles were traveling westbound on Highway 31 at about 1pm. Nehemiah

Kuhns, 22, of Murchison, was in his 2005 Blue Scion Xa with a 22-month-old passenger when a 2006 white GMC Sierra driven by George Massey, 61, of Starr, South Carolina, struck his vehicle.  
(Continued on page 12)



Nathan Straus Photo

This blue Scion Xa was involved in a two-vehicle accident Monday afternoon. No serious injuries were reported from the drivers of either vehicle or the passenger of the Xa.