



**The
Chandler &
Brownsboro**

Statesman

Vol. 34 No. 44

THURSDAY, NOV. 26, 2009

www.c-bstatesman.com

50 Cents

Three area USPS employees to retire Monday

Workers in Brownsboro, Murchison, Chandler part of national workforce reduction

Paul Bryant
Managing Editor

Three women with a combined 63 years with the United States Postal Service in Henderson County will retire at the same time on Monday.

"It's a good opportunity to go start your life over," Kathy Childres, 58, said. "I can take the uniform off and be somebody else now. There's nothing negative about it."

Childres has been with the Chandler Post Office for 29 years. Just days before they were scheduled to report for work for the last time, she joined JoAnn Perry and Betsy Meyer at the Brownsboro Post Office to talk about their lives after retirement.

"I'm going to be outside

sitting on my patio" the next morning, Childres said. "But the Postal Service has been very good to us, and I'm going to miss the people."

Meyer, 57, put in 28 years in Brownsboro, and her decision to retire early didn't come quite as easily.

"I struggled with the decision to quit more than you guys," she said, looking at Perry and Childres. "You know, people come in and say, 'Oh, you're just going to love retirement.' But I don't know."

Brownsboro Postmaster Ricky Williams said the women were given the option to retire early as the USPS reduces its



Paul Bryant Photo

From left, Kathy Childres, Betsy Meyer, and JoAnn Perry talk about retiring at the Brownsboro Post Office on Friday. The women, with a combined 63 years with the USPS, were asked to retire early as the government agency reduces its workforce nationally.

See **RETIRE** | Page 3

'Our Core Values'

After 5 straight nominations, BHS student participates in ambassador program

Paul Bryant
Managing Editor

Sixteen-year-old Jordynn Conner of Brownsboro is among 40 east Texas students scheduled to travel to Europe next summer as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Programs.

She has been nominated five straight years for the honor, but this is the first time her parents have allowed her to participate.

"Jordynn was asked to go in the sixth grade, but we didn't let her pursue it until she was older and we knew she could handle it," Jordynn's mother, Julia Conner, said.

As a student ambassador, the Brownsboro High School student will visit Germany, Belgium, England, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. She'll spend time with other Texas students learning others' way of life and meeting foreign dignitaries.

"We'll be gone for 20 days," Jordynn said. "I don't know exactly who we're meeting, but we'll be meeting members of Parliament and maybe even (Queen Elizabeth II), too. I hope to



Paul Bryant Photo

Brownsboro Independent School District Superintendent Elton Caldwell congratulates 16-year-old Jordynn Conner for her nomination into the People to People Student Ambassador Programs.

gain memories and a better understanding of different cultures."

Jordynn, like other student ambassadors, must be nominated by teachers. The students endure a lengthy interview process

that includes classroom time and recommendations from adults.

The program is "looking to see if you can look someone in the eye and present yourself well," Conner said. "They want to know

if you can articulate well. By going to these classes or meetings each week, they have to stand up and speak."

And that's just fine with Jordynn. She said she's more worried about the plane ride.

"I usually don't get nervous until right before I do something or as I'm doing it. When I get on the plane without my parents, that will be scary. We'll be stopping in New York first, then getting on a plane to England."

Jordynn is a Brownsboro High band member and an "A" student.

"We're just proud as a school district and a campus," Principal Kenneth Wooten said. "She's an exceptional young lady. She represents our core values, and it is great for her family to have this opportunity."

Conner said Jordynn and the other student ambassadors will be accompanied by delegates who have been "vetted" by People to People. Girls will room with girls, and boys will room with boys.

"The delegation leaders are teachers," she said. "One is a teacher in Canton. They won't let these kids out of their sight."

Through the Washington School of World Studies, student ambassadors may receive

See **PROGRAM** | Page 3

English class for Hispanics completes second semester

Paul Bryant
Managing Editor

A class funded by the Poncho Duran Educational Fund for Hispanic adults and hosted by the Brownsboro Independent School District wrapped up its second semester Thursday with over 40 participants in attendance, Parent Involvement Coordinator Perry Eaton said.

"We gave certificates to each of our participants. One of the men just came up and said to me, 'I want you to know this class has helped me. It's made a difference in my life.'"

The courses have been full of people like that, Eaton said, including one who became a U.S. citizen while

See **ENGLISH** | Page 3

LIGHTING IT UP



Courtesy Photo

Chandler maintenance employees Mark Saxon and James Allison hang Christmas lights along State Highway 31 as the city prepares for the holiday season.



KEITH HODGES Collision Center Inc
WHERE EUROPEAN ELEGANCE MEETS AMERICAN CRAFTSMANSHIP

Get your vehicle looking great for the holidays. See Keith Hodges Collision Center for quality auto body, paint and mechanical repair.



tel. 903.533.9505 fax 903.533.1017

16240 Hwy 31 West Tyler, Texas 75709

www.keithhodgescollision.com