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**RETIRE**

workforce nationally. "Right now, they're just looking at ways to streamline and cut costs. Eventually, they'll get the workforce down through attrition and early outs. But, basically, there is still a need for postal workers." Childres said she and others were informed in Sep-

tember the USPS was looking for employees to retire early. "They offered us an incentive, and we took it. We're proud of our offices and proud of the U.S. Postal Service." All three women said they'd enjoy the time off, but each wondered if they'd ever

take another job. "The best part of this is not having something we have to do," Perry, 67, said. We can just do whatever comes up. But we'll miss the customers, and we've had the opportunity to work for some really nice people." And while Perry appeared to leave open the possibil-

ity of returning to public service one day, Childres said she would not consider it. "No more public employment," she said. "I think I'm going to get bored at some point." Perry has been with the Murchison Post Office for 16 years. The postal workers began

their careers as part-timers with varying schedules and remained that way through their retirement. However, as the most tenured workers at their offices, they were the highest paid. The only benefit they did not receive from the USPS was paid holidays, the women said. Only 10 holidays are observed annually by the USPS.

The USPS reported on Nov. 16 a \$3.8 billion loss for fiscal year 2008-2009, despite cost-cutting measures that led to \$6 billion in savings and a \$4 billion reduction in required payments for retiree health benefits. The savings includes a reduction of 40,000 USPS employees. In 2010, the USPS expects to report a \$2.2 billion loss, according to reports. Its operating revenue this year was \$68.1 billion. In 2008, it was \$74.9 billion.

**ENGLISH**

taking the class. "Our attendance has been great. We usually average 35 per night, which is pretty good. They're getting some great help." After 44-year-old Brownsboro businessman Francisco "Poncho" Duran died in January, the fund was created to help parents of Hispanic children in the school district learn English. "Some of his heirs and

business associates decided to do this," Eaton said. "We started it from scratch, and these parents are a blast." Classes started in the Spring with one teacher, Paula Phillips of Chandler Elementary School. This semester, another teacher from Chandler Elementary, Johnice Weisinger, joined the effort. "We expanded it from one teacher to two teachers, and we're going to split the

classes into 'beginner' and 'intermediate,'" Eaton said. "We're going to give an assessment test next Spring." Over 5 percent of the population in Brownsboro is Hispanic. Eaton said many Hispanic children in the district speak better English than their parents. "The better English the parents speak, the more comfortable they're going to be coming to school to talk to their kids' teachers,"

he said. "Maybe they're able to get better jobs, too. I think we're really making a difference in some families." Duran owned Duran Plant Farm and Nursery Inc. on CR 3606. Each semester lasts six weeks. The class is on each Tuesday and Thursday, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Brownsboro Junior High School.

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**PROGRAM**

elective social studies credits while participating in People to People. Colleges and universities also look favorably on the program, Conner said. "They get high school and college credit. For college, it really helps with (admission). She still has a lot of work to do." Jordynn must raise \$7,500 to make the trip. She still needs about \$4,500. A "Santa House" near Dr. Joe B Fulgham's office on State Highway 31 is set to open Saturday, from 5 to 8 p.m.,

to help raise money. "Kids will get to sit on Santa's lap and take pictures and get a toy," Jordynn said. "We'll also have hot chocolate, fudge, cookies, and stuff like that." Santa House is scheduled to open Dec. 5 and Dec. 12, as well. President Dwight D. Eisenhower created the student ambassador program in 1956, following World War II. To donate money for Jordynn's trip, call 903-852-7898.



Jordynn Conner and BHS Principal Kenneth Wooten

**CHECKLIST CHARLIE**

**For college grads, lessons to be learned in job market**

I got an email from a young friend about her job search about a month ago. I called her today to find out how her new job was working out. She said I could share her story. About to graduate from a major university with a degree in history, Lauren spent from January to August looking for a job — any job. Like so many, she discovered the job market was shrinking. "God has definitely been working on me through this whole 'no job' period. He has used other people as well as circumstances to bring out His plan effectively," she wrote. Graduating from college brought problems instead of work — not exactly what she expected. "About two weeks ago, I was getting a prescription refilled. Come to find out, I had been cut off my parent's health insurance due to the fact that I was jobless with no insurance and I was not a full-time student anywhere."

Feeling that she needed to do something, anything, rather than let the job search get to her, she began to ask around among friends for even the most menial work, anything that would provide a paycheck. "So, I am still delivering flowers," Lauren said. Then, about a month ago, the unexpected happened. "But, last Thursday, one of my dad's best friends who manages a pharmacy here in Tyler asked me if I would like a job at his pharmacy. "I went in to talk to him, and would be doing a pharmacy tech-in-training job. They would teach me the whole pharmacy system as well as how to call insurance companies to cover uncovered medicines for people. He would train me and then would pay for me to get my pharmacy tech li-

cense if I really want to do that. I start tomorrow!" I can imagine that Lauren was the sunniest flower delivery girl the florist shop ever had, delivering a bright smile with every bouquet. But I know her well enough to know that being able to sort out the paper tangle of getting people prescriptions, especially people who cannot afford them, will engage her mind and her heart. It is the perfect job for her. Only a God who knows her so thoroughly could orchestrate such a happy situation for her and everyone she will be serving. She described it best. "That's where I am at this point. Delivering flowers was a good lesson for me to learn. Sometimes, you have to do the dirty work even if you're

a college graduate." Cathy Primer Krafve, aka Checklist Charlie, lives and writes with a Texas twang. Visit [checklistcharlie.blogspot.com](http://checklistcharlie.blogspot.com), or send comments to [cathykrafve@gmail.com](mailto:cathykrafve@gmail.com).

**"Only a God who knows her so thoroughly could orchestrate such a happy situation for her and everyone she will be serving."**

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Veterans thank area teachers**  
The veterans in this area would like to give a big hardy thanks to Coach Mayse, Brownsboro, and Mrs. Cindy Bailey, Murchison, their staffs and respective schools for the outstanding Veterans' Day. The programs were sec-

ond to none. You make us feel proud. I want to applaud the students who performed in the programs and to the ones who were in the audience. The singers, band and speakers were great and the students in attendance were respectful, well behaved and attentive.

We veterans want everyone to know that it was an honor to serve our great nation and are appreciative of everyone who attended the programs. Thanks again. God bless America.

Dwayne Garner  
Brownsboro

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**Christmas Bizarre Saturday December 5th**  
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**Wildwood Community Center**  
**6 miles south of Chandler on 315**  
**All profits go to missions project at West Lake Baptist Church.**  
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