

The Chandler & Brownsboro Statesman

Founded 1976

P.O. Box 168
Brownsboro, TX 75756
Phone: (903) 852-7641
Fax: (903) 852-7631
Subscriptions: (903) 984-2593
Email: Statesman@embarqmail.com
Bill Woodall- Publisher
Chad Wilson- Editor, Sports
Nathan Straus- News Reporter

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Henderson & adjoining Counties: \$22.00 / yr.
Other Counties within Texas: \$29.00 / yr.
Out of State in U.S.:.....\$33.00 / yr.
Disabled Veterans & Social Security Recipients in Henderson Co.: \$20.00 / yr.

To subscribe or change your information call 903-984-2593

Published every Thursday by Bluebonnet Publishing, LLC Brownsboro, Texas 75756

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to: THE STATESMAN, P.O. Box 1210, Kilgore, TX 75662

Periodicals Postage Paid at the Post Office Brownsboro, Texas 75756 (USPS 335-710)

Letters To The Editor
The Statesman welcomes and encourages letters and e-mails from readers.

Letters must include the name, address and telephone numbers for verification purposes only. Just your name and city will be published.

All letters are subject to editing. No letter can be published without the above information.

Letters must not be false or misleading, the paper reserves the right to check on any information in the letters submitted. If misleading information is printed we will submit a retraction as the information is called to our attention.

It is not the goal of this paper to harm anyone by the letters to the editor, but it is our goal to give those in the community a place to voice their opinion.

Deadline:

The deadline for all news, display advertising and the "What's Happening" in *The Statesman* is 5:00pm Monday.

Attention: The classified ad deadline is Mondays at noon for the same week's paper.

Family News Policy:

Family news such as wedding or engagement announcements must be submitted by 5:00pm Monday for publication on a space available basis in the same week's newspaper. Please include a telephone number to call if questions arise about spelling, etc.

Engagement announcements must be signed by both the prospective bride and groom, or other satisfactory arrangements made by which the newspaper may verify authenticity.

Birth announcements should be signed by both parents.

There is NO CHARGE for timely engagement or wedding announcements and a photo may be included at no cost.

Anniversary announcements with photos are also published free for couples celebrating 20 years or more of marriage, with subsequent free announcements limited to increments of five years.

Free anniversary announcements may not include an invitation to a reception or party where gifts are expected.

Because of space constraints, free birthday announcements are not published. However friends and relatives may purchase advertising space to congratulate a person on their birthday.

Letters To The Editor

Please review Letter to the Editor policy before submitting letter. The policy is found in the information column on the left hand side of this page.

LETTER to Dwayne Garner and supporters of U.S. Military

I just received your muchly appreciated care package. I want to thank Dwayne Garner, Brookshires, Y's and the DAV. Knowing that we have such strong support coming from home makes our job a lot easier.

The energy drinks you sent are a huge hit. With the day-long mission we run as snipers, a quick burst of energy can always come in handy. When it comes to "off time" we definitely take it to the extreme. Lots of movies and being lazy make up most of our days off. The popcorn and candies are going fast, needless to say. Again, thanks for all the support and keeping us in your prayers.

LCPL Bailey, Cliff, USML SSP

Note: If anyone would like to donate goods to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, contact Dwayne Garner at 903-852-6527 or any member of the DAV.

Dear Editor,

The IRS needs your help.

Starting in May, economic stimulus payments of up to \$600 for individuals (\$1,200 for married couples) will be issued by the IRS based on 2007 tax returns. Parents also get \$300 for each eligible child.

People must file a 2007 tax return. That's it. But here's where the IRS needs help. Millions of people are eligible but may not know it. These are certain retirees, disabled vets and low-wage workers who normally don't file a tax return. This year, they must file to receive the payments.

People can help not just the IRS but perhaps themselves, friends or family. Help us spread the word. People who have at least \$3,000 from wages or certain benefits from Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs may be eligible.

They need to file a return. We'll do the rest. Please, visit www.irs.gov for details.

Sincerely,
Lea C. Crusberg
IRS Media Relations, South Texas
281-721-8130
lea.c.crusberg@irs.gov

Dear Editor:

I am thankful that we have things like Little Dribblers and BMC baseball and girls softball for the youth in our communities. I am not happy about the way things have turned the last several years, where it is more about the parents than it is about the kids.

I watch all of the kids, and some stand out more than others. It seems lately that the sports are turning into a popularity contest rather than a contest of skill. I think all kids should be held up and supported, but I do not think that kids with real skills should be ignored or passed by because they are not part of the social club in the Chandler/Brownsboro area.

I saw this happen when Little Dribblers picked its All-Star teams. And I watched a preamble to the same thing at the BMC baseball skills assessment day. I don't even know why they had this skills assessment. Turn-out was low, but the turn-out of coaches was even lower. Many did not even show up to watch these boys show what they could do. It was like they didn't even care. Why? Because the coaches already knew who they were going to pick. It is a social club and nothing more.

I feel bad for the parents and kids who don't know the "right" people, don't go to the "right" church, who perhaps do not fit in or who have just moved to the area. These people are ignored. Their kids are ignored. They do not know that you have to kiss up in order to be accepted.

I hate saying this about our communities, because I like living here. If I had to pick one thing that I would do away with, it would be the politics involved in allowing the kids to have a good time playing sports. It's not fun for many of them because they are overlooked.

I think the coaches and the parents who are in "the club" need to really step back and examine who they are and why things are this way. I have been on both sides of this coin without doing anything to be "in" or "out." But I can tell you that I would prefer to be out if being in means I have to overlook or disregard everyone else, especially boys and girls who just want to have fun and play ball.

A Parent,
Brownsboro, TX

Dear Editor:

In 2007, Henderson County Labor of Love completed 214 projects for elderly, handicapped, or disadvantaged families by providing free repairs to their homes. This is clearly a significant effort that involved many good and generous people.

The Board of Directors of Labor of Love wishes to thank those persons. They include foundations, United Way, banks, churches, businesses, and individuals that gave financial support in 2007. The above persons have expressed their concern by providing the resources with which the repairs have been accomplished.

The Labor of Love Board also wishes to thank the 70-plus volunteers, 12 project managers, 4H Clubs, corporations and others. They have organized the work, built handicapped ramps, repaired floors and walls, painted the exterior of homes, repaired roofs, repaired plumbing, and electrical problems, widened and/or repaired doors, and generally completed difficult and sometimes unpleasant work.

Henderson County is fortunate to be home to such an effort. None of the surrounding counties have as yet duplicated the success experienced by Labor of Love. Your contributions have offered both assistance and hope.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful service.
Gary Moore
Labor of Love, President

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Cook of the Week
by Nathan Straus



Allyson Murray

Folks who frequent Edom's The Shed Café might catch a glimpse of Allyson Murray. Relatively new to the Edom restaurant, Murray has worked in the kitchen at The Shed for 15 months.

"I really like working here," Allyson said. "It's interesting and fast paced; there's never a dull moment."

Allyson also said she has made many friends in her year and a quarter at the Café.

"Our regulars are great," she added.

It's a bit of a drive through scenic East Texas to get to her workplace. Her home lies off of CR 4907 around six miles north of Edom.

Allyson has been married to Michael Murray for around three years. Allyson has one son, Sam, who is 20.

When she's not working hard to feed restaurant goers, Murray enjoys working with horses and sewing.

Another hobby of Allyson's is her 1880s reenactment group.

"We dress up and act out gunfights and old west scenes," she said.

While she has a decided faith – nondenominational Christianity – Murray said she has not yet settled into a particular church home.

As far as cooking goes, Allyson enjoys making meals and other edibles to please other people. Her family in particular enjoys her home cooked meals, and she is happy to oblige. Allyson has also provided a recipe for a tasty dessert as well as a way to make Pico de Gallo.

- Coconut Meringue Pie**
- 1 cup sugar
 - 3 tbsps corn starch (heaping tablespoons)
 - ¼ tsp salt
 - 2 cups milk
 - 4 egg yolks
 - ¼ cup margarine
 - 1 tsp vanilla
 - ¾ cup coconut
 - 1 cup egg whites
 - ¼ tsp cream of tartar
 - 1 heaping tsp meringue powder
 - ¼ tsp extra vanilla
 - ¼ cup extra sugar
 - Extra coconut (for sprinkling)

Mix one cup of sugar, the corn starch and salt, then add and whisk two cups of milk and the egg yolks. Add the margarine and cook it all in a double boiler until it thickens. When the whisk is picked up it should plop down. Take it off the fire.

Add one teaspoon vanilla and ¼ cup coconut, then mix it in. After the mixture cools, pour it into a pre-baked pie

shell. Put this aside for now.

Take the cup of egg whites, ¼ tsp cream of tartar, the meringue powder and ¼ tsp vanilla and mix it on high with a whisk attachment. While it's whisking add ¼ cup sugar and let it beat until it's thick and forming stiff peaks. It should not, however, be dry. Put this on the filling.

With a spatula bring the meringue down to the edges of the pie crust to seal the filling in. Round it off and stylize it, sprinkling coconut on the top. Put it in a 375 Degree oven for a few minutes,

checking for the desired brownness as it cooks. When it achieves this brownness, the pie is ready.

- Pico de Gallo**
(All ingredients are added in whichever quantities are desired)
- Tomatoes, chopped
 - Onions, chopped
 - Cilantro, chopped
 - Salt
 - Lime juice

Mix this all together. This goes well with chips, tacos or quesadillas.

Check us out online!
www.c-bstatesman.com

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Athens, TX 75751
903-675-9271

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

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Cliff Barrett
101 W Corsicana St
Athens, TX 75751
903-677-2534

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THANK YOU

I am deeply honored by your vote of confidence. We came very close to making it without a runoff.

Now, we must look forward. I humbly ask for your vote in the run-off election for Henderson County Sheriff on April 8.

Together, we can make Henderson County a BETTER place to live.

RAY NUTT

Political Ad Paid for by Lee Nutt, Treasurer, P.O. Box 2639, Athens, TX 75751