

## What's Happening

**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

**The 2009 Sr. Lock In Parents** will be having a meeting Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Brownsboro Elementary Cafeteria. For more information call Darla Williams, 903-469-3639.

**Kickapoo Creek 4H Club** will be holding their monthly meeting Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Murchison School Cafeteria. For More information contact Darla Williams, 903-469-3639

**A congratulatory party will be held for Sheriff Ray Nutt and Constable for Precinct 4** Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 8 at Sunrise Shores Community Center. Everyone is invited!

The choir of the **First Baptist Church of Chandler** will present their **Christmas Cantata, "A Christmas Offering"** Sunday morning, December 14 at 11:00 a.m. The public is invited!

**Calvary Baptist and Brownsboro Police Department will host a Turkey and Toy Drive** at Calvary Baptist Church, 11288 Moss St., Brownsboro, Saturday December 13, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cash donations will be accepted. No stuffed animals.

**CES is conducting a canned food drive December 1 thru 10.** All contributions will be donated as a community service to God's Open Hands. The goal is 1,000 items.

**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.

Sunday, December 14 the combined choirs of First Baptist Church and First Methodist Church of Murchison will present the **Christmas cantata entitled "A Christmas Offering,"** at the First Baptist Church in Murchison. Fellowship will follow the program. There is no cost for the program and a nursery will be available. For further information call 903-469-3704 or e-mail fbcmurchison@embarqmail.com.

**Quilters Guild of East Texas** will gather for a monthly meeting Thursday, December 11. The day meeting will be held at the Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Dr. in Tyler and will begin with a social at 9:30 a.m. The evening meeting will be held at the Cotton Patch Cafe, 322 E. Southeast Loop 323 in Tyler and will begin at 6:30 p.m. visit [www.qgetx.org](http://www.qgetx.org).

**The Melody Boys QT, First Voice Quartet, Brad Fulton and Miles Pike** will be performing in concert December 6 at the Texas Gospel Music Hall, 6513 Hwy. 19 South in Athens, Texas. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Call 903-677-2492, 903-675-5217, or 903-477-8084 for admission price and information.

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

**The Annual Christmas Tour of Homes**, sponsored by Women's Unity Fellowship, will be held from 6:00 until 9:00pm Monday, December 8. Tickets and maps are available at Chandler Drug and Chandler Public Library.

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## Commissioner's Court approves Tyler Technologies contract

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

The Henderson County Commissioners' Court met Tuesday morning to consider a contract with Tyler Technologies to provide Eagle Software for the County Clerk's Records Management operations. This contract, held over from the previous Commissioners' Court meeting, was approved with authorization for the county judge to sign the necessary documents.

Precinct Two Commissioner Wade McKinney made the motion to approve the contract and Ronny Lawrence, precinct three commissioner, seconded. The vote passed unanimously, with Precinct One Commissioner Joe Hall absent.

No action was taken on discussion about the appointment of a local health authority for Henderson County. County Judge David Holstein said, "It is time for the appointment as required by the health and safety code."

The person the county eventually gets for this pro bono position will, preferably, be a doctor.

The court took action on a request from the tax assessor/collector for refunds. There were around six check amounts that needed to be refunded, with prices ranging from around \$500 to over \$3,000 for reasons such as



Nathan Straus Photo

Henderson County Commissioners hear about the status of the county's jail expansion during the Tuesday court meeting

assessment errors or tax overpayment.

McKinney made the motion to approve the refunds and Precinct Four Commissioner Jerry West seconded.

Similar to the Tyler Technologies item, the court also voted on a contract

with Safeguard Imaging Solutions to provide indexing for the county clerk's land records.

County Clerk Gwen Moffeit said, "We have experienced problems and encountered errors with our current vendor."

The court voted, with McKinney making the motion and West seconding, to approve this contract with authorization for the judge to sign.

Two bid acceptances were rescinded during the meeting, both for lots in the

Thunderbird Shores Subdivision in Precinct two.

McKinney made the motion to approve the rescind order for both bids, West seconded both times.

There were no jail expansion issues or plats for the (Continued on page 6)

## Murchison's new postmaster

By Nathan Straus  
Statesman News

Suzanne Praytor just recently started work as Murchison Post Office's postmaster, and she's got around 20 years of post office experience to back up her position. She started work November 21, filling the position left vacant since former Murchison Postmaster Ann Lewis' departure in January, 2008.

Praytor said her postal service career began about 20 years ago in Corsicana as a rural carrier.

"Working for the post office seemed like a good career move," she said. "There are good retirement benefits."

Before arriving in Murchison, she worked in Powell, also as a postmaster. Before



Nathan Straus Photo

Suzanne Praytor, Murchison postmaster

Powell, she was Rosser's postmaster for three years. She currently lives in Gun Barrel City, and makes the drive to Murchison for a total of over 45 hours of hard work each week.

Praytor describes herself as a curious person who always likes to know how things work on the inside, and no job within postal system grants this knowledge more than the postmaster's.

"The post office is changing because of new technology," she said, "but they're coming full circle and realizing customer service always comes first."

Things like being able to meet customer demands are of utmost importance, Praytor said.

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## Genealogical Society members win top awards

Van Zandt County Genealogical Society members Linda Lantrip Mays, of Van, and Sibyl Creasey, of Ben Wheeler, won top awards for the society during the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) annual conference held in Abilene recently.

"Reconstruction Records of Van Zandt County, transcribed and compiled by Mays won a first place award for excellence in the TSGS annual writing awards competition. Consisting of voter registrations for 1867 through 1869; occupational tax records for 1869 through 1874; and poll tax records for 1872, this book is filled with valuable information on the citizens of the area during a very difficult time from which few records have survived.

With the assistance of several society members, Creasey transcribed and compiled "Early Obituaries and Death Records of Van Zandt County" which won a third place award for excellence from TSGS. This volume contains all the 1884 to 1900 obituaries and death notices found in the collection of old newspapers on microfilm at the Library of Genealogy and Local History.

Both books are available for purchase from the genealogical society by visiting the Library of Genealogical and Local History, located in the courthouse annex in Canton. For further information on costs and mailing, call 903-567-5012.



Courtesy Photo

Linda May (left), of Van, won first place for excellence for "Reconstruction Records of Van Zandt County" and Sibyl Creasey (right), of Ben Wheeler, won third place for "Early Obituaries and Death Records of Van Zandt County" at the Texas State Genealogical Society conference. Both books were published by the Van Zandt County Genealogical Society.