

**Chairman of the Board**  
**Kurt Alfred**  
*Brenham National Bank*

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*Blinn College Foundation*

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*Germania Insurance*

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*Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative*

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*Kwik Kopy Business Center*

**Cathy Cole**  
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*Gerke Law Firm*

**Becky Hanath**  
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**Suzy Hankins**  
*Ant Street Inn*

**Walter Jackson**  
*Brenham ISD Superintendent*

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*City of Brenham -*  
*Blue Bell Aquatic Center*

**Jeannie Kroll**  
*Brenham Clinic*

**LaVerne Krumrey**  
*Brenham Monument Co.*

**Cyndee Smith**  
*Oldham Goodwin Group*

**Brad Stufflebeam**  
*Home Sweet Farm*  
*Market & Biergarten*

**Jenny Van Dorf**  
*Blue Bell Creameries*

**Nathan Wade**  
*Lazy "D" Ranches*

**Randy Weidemann**  
*Van Dyke Rankin Insurance*

**Kristie Wensel**  
*Brenham State*  
*Supported Living Center*

## Annual awards and volunteer recognition announced at banquet

A crowd of nearly 600 people attended the Annual Banquet held by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Brenham Economic Development Foundation on February 2. The theme was "Leadership: Sharing the Vision" and John Sharp, Chancellor of Texas A&M University System, was the keynote speaker. Senator Lois Kolkhorst presented special remarks to the crowd and Charles W. Schwartz of the Texas A&M Board of Regents introduced Chancellor Sharp. Chad Gerke served as Master of Ceremonies.

Thanks to all the members and guests who attended, and to the following headline sponsors for ensuring the success of the event:

**Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Brenham**  
**Blinn College - Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative**  
**Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge - Brenham Clinic**  
**Brenham National Bank - Germania Insurance**  
**Van Dyke Rankin Insurance Co.**

After the keynote presentation, EDF Chairman Billy Holle was called to the stage. He talked about the history of the EDF and thanked retiring board member David Yeager for his years of service. He also thanked several partner organizations including the City of Brenham/BCDC, Washington County, and Bluebonnet Electric.

Next the Chamber Board Chairman for 2015, Wesley Brinkmeyer, thanked the retiring directors whose terms ended in December: Dennis Crowson, Michael Groves, Brice Milliorn, Ash Patel and Gracie Slattery. He also thanked the officers who served alongside him in 2015: Michael Pittman, Kurt Alfred, Brice Milliorn, Michael Groves and Liz Hopkins. Brinkmeyer then presented a special surprise award to Chamber president Page Michel for going "above and beyond" in leadership in 2015.

BANQUET *continued on page 4*



Leon Toubin and Twila Tate pause in front of the crowd to accept the honor of being selected Man and Woman of the Year for 2015. See more photos on page 3 from the banquet.

## Agriculture Commissioner to be Speaker at March 4 Forum

On Friday, March 4, join us for a luncheon forum featuring Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and Regional GO TEXAN representatives. This forum will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the banquet room of the Blinn College Student Center.



**MILLER**

Sid Miller is serving as the 12th Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, with his first term beginning in January 2015. Commissioner Miller brings a wealth of knowl-

edge to the Texas Department of Agriculture. He is recognized as one of the state's most dynamic and effective conservative leaders, as well as one of the state's staunchest defenders of constitutional freedoms. During his six terms as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, Commissioner Miller brought his real world agricultural experience to the table. He's your everyday

FORUM *continued on page 4*

### **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS** **MIX, MINGLE, MAKE CONNECTIONS!**

HOSTED BY:

## **Brenham Heritage Museum**

105 S. Market St., Brenham

**Thursday, Feb. 25 from 5-7 p.m.**

Bring business cards to share and enjoy refreshments. Free for Chamber members and employees.

Special beverages provided by Mike Hopkins Distributing and Brazos Valley Brewing Company.

*Learn more about Brenham Heritage Museum at [www.BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org](http://www.BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org)*

# Ribbon Cuttings



New Business

## Berkeley Eye Center

Owner - Dr. Rachel Cook, M.D.  
635 Medical Parkway, Brenham  
979-830-1444



New Location

## Republican Party Headquarters

200 Hwy 290 W., Brenham



New Business

## The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre

Manager: Donna Cummins  
111 West Main Street, Brenham  
(979) 836-6980

# Renewing Chamber Members

January 1-31

*Thanks to the following members for continuing your investment in the Chamber. You are long-term "partners" in our mission to promote and preserve this great community, and we appreciate your confidence in the Chamber's ability to promote your business.*

### Blue Bell Creameries -

#### Presidential Member — 90 years

Washington County Abstract Company — 51 years  
Mike Hopkins Distributing Company — 45 years  
Seidel Schroeder — 38 years

### Wal-Mart Supercenter -

#### Presidential Member — 36 years

Volunteer Services Council for BSSLC — 34 years  
Brenham Banner Press — 32 years  
Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge — 32 years  
Brenham Saddle Shop — 32 years  
Cattlemen's Brenham Livestock Auction — 32 years  
Faske's Jewelry — 32 years  
Arthur A. Geick — 32 years  
TFE Company — 32 years  
Waldie's Pharmacy — 32 years  
Kenjura Pharmacy, Inc. — 31 years  
Lacina & Kenjura PC — 31 years  
Moeller Electric Company — 31 years  
Thielemann Construction

#### & Stegent Plumbing — 31 years

Washington County Tractor — 31 years  
Thrivent Financial — 29 years  
Paul F. LaRoche, III, DDS — 28 years  
Enterprise Products — 27 years  
Phillips Painting Contractor — 27 years  
David Hermann Electric Co. — 26 years  
Lete Phillips Exercise Program — 26 years  
Market Realty, Inc. — 26 years

### Texas Commercial Waste -

#### Presidential Member — 26 years

Ant Street Inn — 24 years

BABE'S Trucking Co. — 22 years  
Farmers Mutual Aid Assoc. of Washington Co. — 21 years  
Unity Theatre — 21 years  
Hospice Brazos Valley — 18 years  
Jim M. Plummer, CPA — 18 years

### Citizens State Bank -

#### Presidential Member — 17 years

Creekside Investment Management, Inc. — 17 years  
Eye Associates of Brazos Valley — 17 years  
Southern Rose Ranch — 17 years  
Bartay Chiropractic — 16 years  
Country Place Cottage — 16 years  
Culligan of Brenham — 16 years  
Edward Jones - Billy Starnes — 16 years  
Eddie E. & Margaret D. Harrison — 16 years  
K & M Grocery — 16 years  
Southern Flyer — 16 years  
Total Storage — 16 years  
Dr. Donald Voelter — 16 years  
Woltmann's Welding & Fabricating — 16 years  
Brenham Insurance Center — 14 years  
Hospice Boutique Resale — 14 years  
Kountry Boys Sausage — 14 years  
Heritage Texas Country Properties — 13 years  
Longwood Elastomers — 12 years  
Subway Sandwiches & Salads #7182 — 12 years  
Brazos Valley Food Bank — 11 years  
Brenham ISD-Director of  
Instructional Service — 11 years  
Brenham L-P Gas — 10 years  
Brenham Veterinary Hospital — 10 years  
Quebe Guesthouse — 10 years

Brenham House Bed & Breakfast — 9 years  
Hollis Energy Resource Services — 9 years  
Dot Borchardt, Washington County  
Tax Assessor — 8 years  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church — 8 years  
Buffalo Creek Bellville — 7 years  
Burton American Legion Post #242 — 7 years  
Downtown Art Gallery — 7 years  
Garcia Cleaning Service Company — 7 years  
Republic Services — 7 years  
Cannery Kitchen & Gift Shop — 6 years  
Christians Development Company — 6 years  
House of Atreus — 6 years  
Portable Buildings of Brenham — 6 years  
Sigma Chi Chi Professional Women's Club — 6 years  
Brenham Counseling Services — 5 years  
Chappell Hill Bakery & Deli — 5 years  
Texas Country Title — 5 years  
Texas German Society/  
Washington County Ch — 5 years  
Hodde Real Estate Company - Jim Ripple — 3 years  
ISB Insurance Services — 3 years  
Brenham Family Dental — 2 years  
Edward Jones - Katie Matthews — 2 years  
Fleur de Lis Bed & Breakfast — 2 years  
Peeka Ranch Alpacas — 2 years  
Wilde Engraving — 2 years  
Coldwell Banker Properties  
Unlimited-Roger Ross — 1 year  
Kountry Boys Bakery & Restaurant — 1 year  
Lauren Concrete — 1 year  
Oak Alley Subdivision — 1 year

**BJ ELECTRIC**  
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Service Calls  
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TECL 22459 www.bjelectricinc.com

Residential • Farm & Ranch • Commercial  
**RE/MAX Advantage**  
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Broker/Owner  
110 East Alamo Street  
Brenham, TX 77833  
Cell: (979) 277-8426  
Office: (979) 251-7500  
Fax: (979) 353-4289  
Email: booc@remax.net  
Web: www.RealtorBoo.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

## GROUP BUYING POWER

Chamber members can now get major savings on credit card payment processing.  
Learn about our new member benefit program.

SMARTER PAYMENT PROCESSING  
Contact Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 • will.watson@infintechllc.com  
**www.infintechllc.com**

# New Chamber Members

**GIST LAW, PLLC**  
 Owner: Gwen Gist  
 114 E. Alamo, Ste 27  
 Brenham, Texas 77833  
 Phone: 575-302-7194  
 gistlaw@yahoo.com  
*Attorneys*

**LAUREN CONCRETE**  
 Owner: Ronnie Klatt  
 1503 N. Park Street  
 Brenham, Texas 77833  
 Phone: 979-836-3664  
 robert@concrete.com  
 www.laurenconcrete.com  
*Concrete – Ready Mixed*

**MOSER COMMUNITY MEDIA, LLC**  
 Managing Partner: James E. Moser  
 105 East Main Street, Ste 109A  
 Brenham, Texas 77833  
 Phone: 979-251-9606  
 Time in Business: 10 years  
 jmoser@mosercommmedia.com  
 www.mosercommmedia.com  
*Media Management*

**THE BARNHILL CENTER  
 AT HISTORIC SIMON THEATRE**  
 Manager: Donna Cummins  
 111 West Main Street (Physical Address)  
 Brenham, Texas 77833  
 P O Box 2006 (Mailing Address)  
 Brenham, Texas 77834  
 Phone: 979-836-6980  
 thebarnhillcenter@gmail.com  
 www.thebarnhillcenter.com  
*Events/Reception Facilities*



2015 Chamber chair Wesley Brinkmeyer (left) thanked retiring directors from the Chamber Board Gracie Slattery, Brice Milliorn, Ash Patel, Michael Groves and Dennis Crowson.



The 2015 executive officers with plaques in appreciation: (L to R) Wesley Brinkmeyer, Chairman of the Board; Kurt Alfred, Second Vice Chair; Michael Groves, Treasurer; Brice Milliorn, Secretary; and Liz Hopkins, Immediate Past Chair.

Thank you to our Chairman's Circle members ...



Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...



# Banquet

*Continued from page 1*

The current president of the Blue Blazers, Brice Milliorn, thanked the club members for all their hard work helping to recruit and retain members. He then announced the Blue Blazer of the Year award. It was won by Eddie Harrison, longtime member. Twila Tate won the 2015 Woman of the

Year-Lifetime Achievement Award. She was introduced by 2014 winner Nita Hyatt. Leon Toubin won the 2015 Man of the Year Award, introduced by the prior year's winner Donald Ahrens. Both winners were stunned and surprised. They expressed sincere appreciation for being selected and

talked about what a great community this is to live in and serve others.

That concluded a wonderful evening of celebration for this community's business leaders and hard-working volunteers. Plans for next year's banquet are already underway with a special celebration planned

for the Chamber's Centennial anniversary. Members are asked to send in stories, photos and mementos from their business' history in the community over the past decades since 1917. Send to centennial@brenhamtexas.com.



The 2015 Blue Blazer of the Year award was won by Eddie Harrison (center) for outstanding service to the community, presented by Jane Hinze and Brice Milliorn.



EDF board chairman Billy Holle (right) presented plaques to retiring director David Yeager.

## Forum

*Continued from page 1*

man who's made a difference in his community and for the Lone Star State by working as a small businessman, community leader, school teacher, agriculturist and former school board member. In every aspect of his work, Commissioner Miller has proven his convictions in being pro-business and pro-job creation.

As the leader of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Miller is working to safeguard water resources to ensure access for farmers and ranchers, as well as fighting to

secure our nation's porous border with Mexico. A true Texan through-and-through, Commissioner Miller is focused on promoting the best Texas-grown and Texas-made products through the GO TEXAN program. Additionally, Commissioner Miller will push for polices to continue growing the Texas economy and creating jobs.

Commissioner Miller was born in De Leon, Texas, and has a deep-rooted history in Texas' agriculture industry. He is a cattle rancher and farmer, as well as the



Featured speaker John Sharp received a framed Texas map in appreciation from Chad Gerke, MC of the banquet.

owner/operator of a commercial nursery business. A former six-term member of the Texas House of Representatives, Commissioner Miller served as chairman of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee. He also is a professional rodeo cowboy and holds nine American Quarter Horse Association world championship titles.

He is a graduate of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Agriculture Education. Commissioner Miller maintains close ties to Stephenville, where he owns and operates a nursery business.

Commissioner Miller and his wife, Debra, have been married for 36 years. The Millers have two sons and two grandchildren.

Bob Cottle, owner of Pleasant Hill Winery in Brenham, will be the MC. There will be time for questions from the audience after the Commissioner's presentation.

GO TEXAN Chamber Members are invited to set-up a booth at the event for \$50. This includes one ticket to the forum and one 8 ft. table. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis.

Tickets are \$25 for Chamber members, \$35 for non-members, or \$250 for a reserved Corporate Table (seats 8). A catered buffet lunch is included. Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber at (979) 836-3695. The deadline to reserve a seat is Friday, February 26.

## Washington County Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 15 members and 40 years of tradition. They support the mission of the Washington County Chamber. The volunteers in the club act as official greeters and hosts of our community. Their activities include monthly meetings, greeting at Chamber functions, recruiting new Chamber members, and conducting ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

**Darlene Denman**  
*Washington County Chamber*

**Joyce Dickschat**  
*Brenham National Bank*

**Wendy Frazier**  
*BBVA Compass Bank*

**Eddie Harrison**  
*Retired-Brenham Municipal Judge*

**Chris Jackson**  
*City of Brenham Police Department*

**Tammy Jaster**  
*City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center*

**Florence Julian**  
*Retired-Individual*

**Brice Milliorn**  
*Edward Jones Investments*

**Michelle Panko**  
*Barking Ranch Pet Resort*

**Linda Pipes**  
*Retired-School Teacher*

**Kathy Randermann**  
*KTTX 106.1/KWHI 1280*

**Christy Schlottmann**  
*Allstate Insurance*

**Randy Weidemann**  
*Van Dyke Rankin & Company)*

**Barbara Wilganowski**  
*Spherion Staffing)*

**Kristie Wensel**  
*Brenham State Supported Living Center*





Class photo with state Rep. Leighton Schubert.

# Leadership in the State

In January, the Leadership class traveled to Austin for the State Government session. This session provides in-depth information about our state's legislative process and judicial process.

It was a perfectly beautiful day! Upon arrival, participants enjoyed a professionally guided tour of the Capitol, hearing about the history of the various statues, paintings, architecture and much more.

State Representative Leighton Schubert then joined the class in the House Chamber for questions and answers. He showed the location of his new desk and explained various protocols of the House and how the voting is

done on the floor. He then took the class to the Agriculture Museum, located in the Capitol, to give an update on his first year as our Representative. Leadership class members were reminded that our state Senators and Representatives like to hear from constituents and encouraged everyone to contact his office at any time with concerns.

After meeting with Rep. Schubert, the class walked to the Texas Supreme Court building. They received a rare chance to sit in the court and met with Justice Debra Lehrmann and Justice Phil Johnson.

After lunch in the Capitol Grill, the class met with Matt Russell from the Office of Senator Lois Kolkhorst. Following that, attorney Elizabeth

Hadley visited with the group and talked about the lobbying process.

The day ended with a tour of the Governor's Mansion. The tour guide had to speak softly, as the Governor was home at the time! Though the class did not get to meet him.

The next session will focus on Education in Washington County.

Leadership Washington County is a program of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce designed to train and motivate current and future leaders for our community. The next class will form in July. For more details and/or an application, please call the Chamber at (979) 836-3695 or visit [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com).



LWC Class of 2016 at the State Capitol.



Inside the Supreme Court of Texas with Justice Phil Johnson.



Sarah Kubeczka, Susie Johnson and Ginger Bishop take a Capitol "selfie."



Touring the Governor's Mansion.



Gena and Bernie Willimitis pose on the famous staircase of the Governor's Mansion.

# Tourism News

## Texas Independence Day Celebration

2016 is an important year because Texas is turning 180! This year's Texas Independence Day Celebration will be escalated to include some special guests and entertainment. In addition, the Park itself is celebrating its 100th birthday. Activities for this two-day celebration run from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days and admission fees to the site's attractions will be waived.

And—just as they did 180 years ago—riders on horseback will make their way down La Bahia Road and into the Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site to deliver letters from Alamo commander William Barret Travis to Washington on the Brazos, timed in conjunction with the annual Texas Independence Day Celebration. Visit [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org) for details.



A gun salvo by the Texian Army adds excitement to the celebrations.

## Start the New Year with a BANG!

For its first show of 2016, Unity Theatre brings you the comedy *The Miss Firecracker Contest* by Beth Henley February 12-28, 2016. The show runs for three weekends, previewing on Thursday, February 11, opening on Friday, February 12, and playing through Sunday, February 28.

Carnelle Scott (known locally in the small Mississippi

town of Brookhaven as “Miss Hot Tamale”) is rehearsing furiously for the Miss Firecracker Contest – hoping that a victory will salvage her tarnished reputation and allow her to leave town in a blaze of glory. There's much more fun in this story but you'll just have to come enjoy it for yourself. Visit [www.UnityBrenham.org](http://www.UnityBrenham.org) for ticket information.

## Precinct Show in Humble

Several area tourism partners with their own booths (the Bush Library, Chappell Hill Lavender Farm, Chappell Hill Museum, College Station CVB and Texas Independence Trail Region, to name a few) joined the CVB staff at the recent Precinct Show in Humble. The show's purpose is to provide an information gathering place for the leaders of various groups that schedule Precinct 4 buses for day trips around the Houston area.

Jenny Mills and Lu Hollander spent the time encouraging prospective visitors to come to Brenham and Washington County, handed out the 2016 Visitor Guide and responded to a variety of questions about our area. Many who stopped by the booth were previous visitors eager to schedule a return trip.



Jenny Mills responds to a visitor's question during the Humble Precinct Show.

## Annual Used Book Sale Benefits the Library

The annual Used Book Sale will be held February 24-27 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The Fortnightly Club of Brenham has collected more than 20,000 books that will be available for purchase during the sale, including a wide variety of new and used books, a large selection of novels and some collector's editions, plus many hard-

back books, videos, DVDs and CDs.

The first day, February 24, is geared to accommodate book dealers who want to shop in advance; admission from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. that day is \$10. Admission for the remainder of the sale is \$1 per person and children are admitted free.

This huge book sale is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. All proceeds from the sale benefit Brenham's Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library. Parking for the event is free.



Book lovers browse among books of all types organized by subject.

## Did You Know?

With the expanding focus on our local history, let's see how much you know about Washington County:

1. In what year was the town site of Coles Settlement (today's Independence) settled?
2. What was the name of the creek in which Sam Houston was baptized?
3. When was the post office in Burton established?

*Answers: 1. 1824 2. Little Rocky Creek 3. 1870*

## Working for YOU!

*As a Chamber member, your promotional information is seen by thousands of people every month.*

### WALK-INS

Visitor Center HQ Building  
Jan. 2016 — 439 Jan. 2016 — 758

### WEBSITE

[www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com)

Unique Visitors Total Pages  
Jan. 2016 — 8,445 Jan. 2016 — 17,198

### WEBSITE

[www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com](http://www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com)

Unique Visitors Total Pages  
Jan. 2016 — 10,526 Jan. 2016 — 25,760



**Happy Hour on Thursday, February 18**  
**at Palettes and Pairings**  
222 E. Alamo St., Downtown Brenham  
**5 p.m.**

Paint two wine glasses to take home. \$25, RSVP to [jenniferpPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferpPhillips@gmail.com) or call or text 832-746-2261 or pay via link on YPO Facebook page.

For more information about Washington County YPO, send your contact information to [youngpros@brenhamtexas.com](mailto:youngpros@brenhamtexas.com) or visit online: [www.Facebook.com/YPOwashingtoncounty](http://www.Facebook.com/YPOwashingtoncounty)

## "Wake Up, Washington County!" Networking Breakfast

Hosted by  
**Ant Street Inn**

**Tuesday, February 16**  
**Starts at 7:45 a.m.**

107 W. Commerce St., Downtown Brenham

Enjoy breakfast and a chance to network with other local businesses and organizations. It's a great way to inform them about your products and services and learn what's new in the community.

Everyone gets a chance to give a 30-second commercial about their business/organization. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards and brochures for sharing.

**Breakfast Sponsored by:**  
**BBVA Compass**

# What's Happening in February

Feb 11-28

## The Miss Firecracker Contest - Unity Theatre

Full of unusual characters, Firecracker is a touching, hilarious account of one woman's attempt to save her tarnished reputation – a play that bursts with humor and absurdity. Thursdays, 7:30pm; Friday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 4pm (www.UnityBrenham.org, 979-830-8358).

Feb 12-28

## Art Show - Cousins: Westerns, Watercolors and Words

Back Lot Gallery's new show combines the artwork of three cousins, Mary Ross Buchholz, Renee Chastant and Joyce McCown, for a stunning combination of family talent. Gallery Hours: Fri noon-7pm, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-4; free, 308 S. Park Street (behind Ant Street Inn), Downtown Brenham.

Feb 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

## Brewery Patio Open

Enjoy craft beer with friends, Friday 6-10pm, Saturday 1-6pm, Brazos Valley Brewery, 201 W. First St., Downtown Brenham (www.BrazosValleyBrewery.com).

Feb 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

## Live Music in the Biergarten

Largest selection of craft beer in Washington County, wine, local food and live music, Home Sweet Farm Market and Biergarten, 6-11pm, live music starts at 8pm, 307 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham (www.HomeSweetFarm.com).

Feb 12

## Port and Dessert at Pleasant Hill Winery

Kick off Valentines weekend with three award winning port wines paired with Bliss Candy Company cupcakes and toffees, \$20 per person, complimentary for Wine Club, 5-9pm, Pleasant Hill Winery, 1441 Salem Rd., Brenham (www.PleasantHillWinery.com).

## Live Music at Buffalo Creek

Enjoy live music by varying artists. Open 6 p.m., music starts at 8:00; 10827 Hwy.36 S., Bellville (www.BuffaloCreekEvents.com).

Feb 13, 20, 27, March 5

## Wood Fired Pizza at Saddlehorn Winery

Pair newly added wood fired pizzas with award winning wines on Saturdays from 11am-5pm, weather permitting, while supplies last (www.saddlehornwinery.com).

Feb 13-14

## Wine and Chocolate Trail

Texas Bluebonnet Wine and Chocolate Trail, \$35 per person or \$56 for two, must be purchased online (www.LocalWineEvents.com).

Feb 13

## Lucchese Custom Boot Trunk Show

Design your own pair of Custom Lucchese Boots with the Lucchese Professional. Walk ins are welcome, 9am-5pm, South Texas Tack (www.SouthTexasTack.com, 979-421-8800).

## Light in the Dark

Try your hand at candle dipping, ages six and older while supplies last. Additional farm chores will be ongoing weather permitting. Tours will be available, 10am-4:30pm, Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site (www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

## Step Into the Past Tours

Multiple historic sites open Saturdays 10am-5pm, full details online (www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com/step-into-the-past).

## Brenham Country Club Valentine's Dinner & Dance

Meal provided by Design II, music by Todd Wellmann, photo booth on site, 6-9pm, 4107 Hwy. 105, Brenham. Call for more details at 979-836-1733 (www.BrenhamCC.com).

## Valentine's Wine Pairing Dinner at Saddlehorn Winery

Four courses paired with wine, live music, 6:30-8:30pm, \$85 for wine Club members, \$100 for non-members. Tickets must be presented upon check-in. Purchas online (www.localwineevents.com/events/detail/623139, www.SaddlehornWinery.com)

## Valentine's Dance - Round Top

Boot scootin' Valentine's Day Dance at Henkel Hall. The renowned Black Cat Choir will be performing. Cash bar only. Sponsored by The Round Top Area Chamber of Commerce, 8-11pm, \$10 (www.RoundTop.org, 979-249-4042).

Feb 15-27

## 2016 Winedale Quilt Exhibit- Deep in the Heart of Texas

Texas Themed Quilts-some of which have never been exhibited publicly, Winedale Historical Complex- Meadows Conference Center, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, 10am-4pm, (www.cah.utexas.edu).

Feb 15

## Enduring Spirit: African Americans in 19th Century Texas

Star of the Republic Museum is celebrating Black History in Texas with a yearlong exhibit that captures the spirit of 19th-century black Texans and the challenges they faced before, during and after the Civil War. Washington on the Brazos, 10am-5pm (www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

Feb 15, 22, 29, March 7

## After-school Sewing Class

Fun weekly meetings filled with creative projects, practical techniques, and sharing together in the joy of sewing, bring your own sewing machine, class size limited to six students, \$85 per month, four classes, includes materials, Mondays 4-5:30pm, Brenham Church of Christ, 2800 Victory Ln., Brenham (979-551-0970, sewfunsewing.weebly.com).

Feb 16

## "Wake Up, Washington County!"

### Networking Breakfast

Hosted by Ant Street Inn, free for Chamber Members, 7:45am, 107 W. Commerce St., Downtown Brenham.

Feb 16, 18, 23, 25

## Play in the Clay

One night make your own pieces then return a second night to decorate/glaze, \$80 per person for 2 classes, includes clay, decorating/glazes and two firings. Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9pm at Bluebonnet Pottery, 12341 LBJ Dr. (www.BluebonnetPottery.com, 979-289-3765).

Feb 17

## Musical Theatre Dance Classes

With Libby Lovejoy, Broadway style jazz and tap, 2nd - 4th grade, 4-5pm, 5th grade and up 5-6pm, registration forms online and at Unity Theatre (www.UnityBrenham.org).

## Wine Down

Enjoy wine & artisan cheese and \$1 off house wine, 5-8pm, Home Sweet Farm Market and Biergarten, 307 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham (www.HomeSweetFarm.com).

## Dance Exercise at Unity Theatre

Get a great workout and have fun, no dance experience required, class is half tap and half musical theatre dance, 6-7pm, \$120 adults 18 and over, Unity Theatre, 300 Church St. (www.UnityBrenham.org).

Feb 18, 25, March 3

## Homeschool Sewing Club

Fun weekly meetings filled with creative projects, practical techniques, and sharing together in the joy of sewing, bring your own sewing machine, class size limited to six students, \$85 per month, four classes, includes materials, Thursdays 1-2:30pm, Brenham Church of Christ, 2800 Victory Ln., Brenham (979-551-0970, sewfunsewing.weebly.com).

Feb 18

## Ribbon Cutting - Senior Activity Center

Please join us for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the new Senior Activity Center, 1301 E. Tom Green St., Brenham, 10am (www.SeniorCenterBrenham.com).

## Young Professionals Networking Event

Let your creative side out at Palettes & Pairings with the Young Professionals Organization of Washington County. \$25/person and BYOB. Light snacks provided. Painting two wine glasses - all supplies provided, 5pm, 222 E. Alamo, Downtown Brenham, prepay at website (www.PalettesandPairings.com/event/2783/Private-Party).

## Craft Beer Night

Craft beer and pint specials, Home Sweet Farm Market & Biergarten, 5-8pm, 307 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham (www.HomeSweetFarm.com).

## Bluebonnet Opry

Friends of the Bluebonnet Opry fall polka show, presenting Ray Goodwin, Rhonda Race, Minnie and Ella Jordan, and the Bluebonnet Opry House Band. Doors open at 5:30pm, food served from 6pm, show starts at 7:30pm, Silver Wings Ballroom, 4100 Hwy. 105, Brenham (www.friendsofbluebonnetopry.org).

Feb 19-20

## Chili When Its Chilly Cook Off

All profits to the Boot Campaign aiding troops and veterans; live music all day, noon-11pm, Lone Star Jellystone Campground, Waller, \$15 daily admission, or sign up teams online (www.ChiliWhenItsChilly.com).

Feb 19

## Fruit Tree Management Seminar

Featuring Monte Nesbitt, extension horticulturist, \$20 per person, drinks and refreshments included, Winedale Historical Complex, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, registration 1:00-1:30pm, program 1:30-5pm (Scott Willey-979-968-5831, Winedale@austin.utexas.edu).

Feb 20

## Living History Saturday

Travel back in time to 1836, 10am-3pm, Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site (www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

Feb 24-27

## Fortnightly Club Used Book Sale

More than 20,000 books available for purchase during the sale, including a wide variety of new and used books, a large selection of novels and some collector's editions, plus many hardback books, videos, DVDs and CDs. Hours are Wed-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm. Wednesday admission from 9am-1pm is \$10 per person; all other days/times admission is \$1 per person and children are admitted free, Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham.

Feb 25

## Business After Hours - Brenham Heritage Museum

Enjoy networking, food and refreshments, free for Chamber members and employees, 105 S. Market St., 5-7pm (www.BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org).

## St. Peter's Dinner for Local Charities

St. Peter's Episcopal Church annual fundraiser dinner for local charities. Live auction, 6-9pm, \$25, 2310 Airline Dr., Brenham (www.StPetersBrenham.org).

## Small Business HR Training

Topics covered: Effective Interviewing, Reward and Records, Performance Improvement, Complaint Investigation, The ABC's of HR, presented by Bob Schubert, Small Business Development Center at Blinn College, 108 Blinn Blvd, Brenham, 6-9pm, register online (www.BlinnCollege.SBDCNetwork.net, 830-4137).



# Business Spotlight

## All Things New

by Shari

*Saving the world from ugly and unwanted furniture... one piece at a time.*

All Things New by Shari, created in June 2014, is a small Brenham-based business specializing in painting furniture and other household décor.

The owner, Shari Tackert, has been painting for herself for many years and decided to turn the hobby she is passionate about into a new business venture. Shari enjoys taking something old, ugly, unwanted, and useless and transforming it into a new, beautiful, and purposeful creation.

For this reason, All Things new by Shari works to make her painting services affordable but still provide quality

work. Shari counts it a blessing to be able to work out of her home and be joined on the weekend by her handy husband, Gary, who does all the carpentry and repair work for the business.

Visit [www.AllThingsNewByShari.com](http://www.AllThingsNewByShari.com) or call 979-203-8192 for more information.

## Camptown Cemetery Association

### Buy-A-Brick Campaign

The Camptown Cemetery Association has announced the beginning of its "Buy-A-Brick" campaign as an opportunity for Brenham residents to honor and memorialize loved ones. According to Association President, Eddie Harrison, you can donate a brick in honor of, or in memory

of a loved one or yourself and/or your company.

Camptown Cemetery is an African-American cemetery dating back to the end of the Civil War. It was neglected for many years.

In 2013, Mr. Harrison was able to get some people interested in its restoration. The Brenham Heritage Museum and Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church were also instrumental in spearheading the effort.

Since 2013, Camptown Cemetery has been cleared of its brush, trees and weeds and is now a very peaceful area with very pleasant and quiet surroundings. With the growth of natural grasses and some native Texas rose bushes, it is a wonderful place to come and sit on one of its benches and reflect on current events and past memories.

The money generated from the brick sales will be used to maintain and restore the cemetery and its markers. If you are interested in buying a brick, call Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church at 979-836-3021.

## Calendar

*Continued from page 7*

### New Beginnings 2016

#### Celebration of Life Banquet

Annual friend-raising banquet, Fireman's Training Center, Brenham, 6:30-8:30pm, free admission, RSVP by Feb. 19, seating is limited ([www.NewBeginningsBrenham.org](http://www.NewBeginningsBrenham.org), 979-836-1588).

Feb 26

#### Ribbon Cutting - Gazabo Terrace Skilled Care & Rehabilitation

Please join us in celebrating Gazabo Terrace Skilled and Rehabilitation's expansion, 1303 Hwy 290 E., Brenham, 3pm ([www.GazaboTerraceCare.com](http://www.GazaboTerraceCare.com)).

Feb 27

#### St. Paul's Christian Day School Gala

Casual dinner and dance fundraiser for the mission and ministry of St. Paul's Christian Day School. Las Vegas Theme, cocktails 6pm, Design II catered meal and live auction at 7pm, silent auction throughout the evening, Route 4 Band following live auction, Brenham Fireman's Training Center, \$50, reserved tables available (979-836-1145).

#### Music Makes a Celebration

Presented by Homestead Strings at Fanthorpe Inn, Washington on the Brazos State Park, 23400 Park Rd. 12, Washington, 11am-3pm (936-878-2214).

Feb 28, March 6

#### Lifetime Learning

Dr. Fernando Casas' two part lecture on Life and the Cosmos, Blinn College Conference Center, 1-3pm, \$40 for both lectures, registration deadline Feb 21 ([www.LifetimeLearningBrenham.org](http://www.LifetimeLearningBrenham.org), 979-353-1089).

Feb 29

#### Ribbon Cutting - Kountry Boys Bakery & Restaurant

Join us in welcoming a new member Kountry Boys Bakery & Restaurant, 401 Hwy 290 W., Brenham, 10:30am.

## March highlights...

March 4

#### Agriculture Forum

Featuring Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and representatives from the Texas Department of Agriculture and GO-TEXAN members, 11:30am-1pm, Blinn College Banquet Room, \$25 Chamber Members, \$35 non-members, \$250 reserved table for eight (events@brenhamtexas.com, 979-836-3695).

March 5

Junk Gypsy Boot Trunk Show  
South Texas Tack, 4765 Hwy 290 E., Brenham, all day ([www.SouthTexasTack.com](http://www.SouthTexasTack.com)).

#### Community CPR Class

Held at EMS Station, 1875 Hwy 290 West, Brenham, 8:30am-noon, \$25, call prior to attending (979-277-6267).

#### Heritage Society of Washington County Gala

Annual Evening at the Mansion Gala will include an open bar, appetizers and dinner by Adams 205. Festivities will continue with dancing to the music of the popular Black Cat Choir, as well as a live and bid board auction, Giddings Stone Mansion, 6-11pm, \$100 per guest, table sponsorships available ([www.GiddingsStoneMansion.com/latest-news/](http://www.GiddingsStoneMansion.com/latest-news/)).

March 5-6

#### Texas Independence Day Celebration

Two-day celebration featuring live music, food, traditional crafts, living history presentations, firing demonstrations, historical encampments and commemorative programs. You can watch cooking, weaving and period craft demonstrations, and walking trails as Texas forefathers and pioneer families. 10am-5pm, Washington on the Brazos State Historical Site ([www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org](http://www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org)).

March 8

#### Total You Wellness Health Series

Workshop series on physical health, nutritional health, mental health, technology and more. Noon-1pm, Brenham Clinic, 600 N. Park St. Contact Mary Sanders 979-277-6212 or Jeannie Kroll 979-830-0508.

March 10

#### Business After Hours - Brenham Nursing & Rehab

Come enjoy some great networking, delicious food and refreshments! Bring plenty of business cards to share with other members.

Play in the Clay -

#### Men, Women or Couples Night Out!

Call to set up an evening to play in the clay. One night you will make your own pieces then come back a second night to decorate/glaze. Class is \$80 per person for 2 classes and includes the clay, decorating/glazes and two firings. Class times are Tuesday and Thursdays from 7 - 9 pm. Arrangements can be made for other nights also, just call to set them up. BYOB for a fun night out. Reserve seats by calling 979-289-3765. ([www.BluebonnetPottery.com](http://www.BluebonnetPottery.com)).



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