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Blinn College Foundation

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BREHAM, TEXAS

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Market & Biergarten*

Jenny Van Dorf
Blue Bell Creameries

Kristie Wensel
*Brenham State
Supported Living Center*

Gena Wilimitis
Miracle Farm

TAILGATE tickets now on sale

The countdown is on! The Chamber's 10th annual Tailgate Party will be held on Thursday, Aug. 24, and tickets are on sale now. For the tenth consecutive year, the Chamber will host this exciting and fun tailgate-style event at Silver Wings Ballroom in Brenham. It is the one annual fundraising event for Chamber programs and activities. Everyone in the community is invited. Get some friends together and plan to be there!

Football fever and spirited rivalries will be happening that night... between fans of Texas Longhorns, Texas A&M, Blinn Bucs, TCU Horned Frogs, UH Cougars, Texas Tech Raiders, Houston Texans, Dallas Cowboys, Burton Panthers, Brenham Cubs and more.

The entire community is invited to attend!

Stop by the Chamber and pick up tickets by August 18. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For the price of \$35 per person, you can enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat buffet from Design II Catering, foamy cold beverages, live music, a fabulous silent auction, bucket drawings, a "big board" auction, and lots of mingling with colleagues and friends.

The auction is always a major highlight of the evening. Chamber members donate fantastic items! See below for some highlights.

A huge round of applause goes to all of the generous sponsors who are making this night possible. Please join us in thanking them, and then come to the TAILGATE 2017 to enjoy the party with them!

"CONNECT AFTER 5"

**WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER'S
NETWORKING EVENT HAS A NEW NAME!**

SPONSORED BY:

RE/MAX Advantage

to be held at LJ's BBQ
1407 W. Main St., Brenham

Thursday, Aug. 17 from 5-7 p.m.

People like doing business with people they know.

Put a face to your business or organization and meet others.

Have fun, enjoy food and drinks and exchange business cards and brochures.

Free for Chamber members and employees!



CHAMPION SPONSOR

BREHAM



SUPER BOWL SPONSORS



TOUCHDOWN SPONSORS

Bank of Brenham ★ CHI St. Joseph Health
Hodde Real Estate ★ Jet Set Chocolate
RE/MAX Advantage ★ Seidel Schroeder

Here's a peek at just a few of the auction items you can bid on at the Tailgate Party. A complete list of all donations will be in next month's newsletter to recognize all the fantastic donations from Chamber member businesses.

TAILGATE *continued on page 2*

Thank you to our Centennial Sponsors ...



Ribbon Cuttings



New Member

The Rustic Cottage

Owner: Tricia Newman
115 W. Alamo Street, Brenham
(832) 602-6192



New Location

LJ's BBQ

Owners: Matt Lowery and Corey Cook
1407 W. Main Street, Brenham
(979) 421-8292



New Member

Brenham Homebrewer Supply

Owners: Jack and Marie Owen
2313 S. Market St., Brenham
(979) 353-5567



Grand Opening

Brenham Early Childhood Learning Center

Brenham ISD
304 Kerr Street, Brenham

Stay, Play & Buy Local

Many people do not realize the importance of shopping in your own community. Sales tax dollars kept here support your local police department, fire department, parks and recreation facilities, road projects, businesses and workforce.

See the "Top Reasons" to buy local on this page, and shop with pride in Washington County. Support the "Home Team!" It benefits every business and every resident.

Chamber member businesses support the community year-round, and they appreciate the

support of local residents as customers and clients. View a list of all Chamber member businesses online at www.BrenhamTexas.com. A lot of Chamber Members will include HOT DEALS on the website to promote sales and special offers.

The Chamber provides education, advocacy, marketing assistance, referrals and more to members, along with great networking and leadership development opportunities. For more information, stop by the Chamber office or call (979) 836-3695.

STAY LOCAL



PLAY LOCAL

Keep Our Local Economy Strong!
Find nearly 850 local businesses at
www.BrenhamTexas.com

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Page Michel, President & CEO
Jane Hinze, Member Services Mgr.
Shae Janner, Business Programs Mgr.
Dawn Konieczny, Communications Coordinator
Lu Hollander, CVB Adv. & PR Mgr.
Jenny Mills, Website & Social Media Mgr.
Courtney Powell, Visitor Center & Group Mktg. Coord.
Cheryl Sevin, Bookkeeper
Support Staff: Darlene Denman,
Jeanine Presswood and Nelda Snow.

TAILGATE

Continued from page 1

Washington County Wine Trail

Donated by
Pleasant Hill Winery,
Saddlehorn Winery,
Texas Star Winery
and Windy Winery

Steak Dinner for 20
Donated by Miracle Farm
and Chamber Board Members

Louisiana Fishing Trip

Donated by Kruse Village

Flounder Giggling Trip
Donated by Appel Ford
and Citizens State Bank

Backyard Tailgate Party Package
Various Donors

...and much much more!

This is the only fundraising event of the year for the Chamber. All proceeds are put back into the community in the form of programs and services to enhance the business industry and economic climate. Join the crowd on Aug. 24. Enjoy this great opportunity to support your community, promote your business, and have fun at the same time!



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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.



Contact Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 • will.watson@infintechllc.com

www.infintechllc.com

Renewing Members

July 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.

Mike Hopkins Distributing Company — 46 years
 Dahmann & Associates LLC — 40 years
 Wal-Mart Supercenter - Presidential Member — 37 years
 Heritage Society of Washington County — 36 years
 Brenham Abstract & Title Co.
 - *Chairman's Circle* — 34 years
 Washington County Fair Association — 33 years
 KTTX 106.1 / KWHI 1280 — 32 years
 Medical Arts Drug Company — 32 years
 Moeller Electric Company — 32 years
 Creekside Veterinary Service — 31 years
 Brenham Community Education — 29 years
 Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited — 29 years
 Lube Rite, Inc. — 28 years
 Kruse Village — 27 years
 Live Oak Resort — 27 years
 K & H Portable Toilets — 24 years
 Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Assoc. — 24 years
 Moorman Tate Haley Upchurch & Yates LLP — 23 years

Best Western Inn of Brenham — 20 years
 Hodde Real Estate Company — 20 years
 Kolkhorst Petroleum Co. — 20 years
 Camp For All — 19 years
 Oak Creek Apartments — 19 years
 Brenham Tire & Auto Center — 17 years
 Lillian Farms Country Estate — 16 years
 We Manage Properties — 15 years
 Longwood Elastomers/Wabtec — 14 years
 Texas Home Health — 14 years
 George Bush Presidential Library & Museum — 13 years
 Toy Box Child Development — 13 years
 American Cancer Society — 12 years
 Bluebonnet Pottery & Gift Gallery — 12 years
 The Book Nook — 11 years
 Brenham Party Rentals — 11 years
 Pape Scapes — 11 years
 AAA Self Storage - Brenham — 10 years
 First Christian Church of Brenham — 10 years

WCT OUTDOORS — 10 years
 Allen Honda — 9 years
 Texas ENT & Allergy — 9 years
 RE/MAX Advantage-Pam Green — 8 years
 K & W Dozer Service — 7 years
 Ladco Construction Company — 7 years
 Clover & Marak PLLC — 6 years
 Kool Shades Window Tint — 6 years
 Performance Health and Wellness — 6 years
 Super 8 Brenham Inn — 6 years
 CENTURY 21 Holton Realty — 5 years
 The Gerke Law Firm PLLC — 5 years
 Westbrook Storage — 5 years
 1st Step Dog Training & Grooming — 4 years
 ISB Insurance Services — 4 years
 M Bar Land & Cattle — 4 years
 Woman's Cave — 4 years
 Dr. Ryan Frieben, PA — 3 years
 North Park Apartments — 1 year
 Raymond Davis Chocolates — 1 year

Business Spotlight

Brenham Community Education

Brenham Community Education's mission is to enrich learners' lives by providing ongoing, collaborative, quality learning opportunities in preparation for positive life and community transformation. Their vision is to be a beacon to the community through providing non-credit educational opportunities, focusing on quality services

and course variety to transform students' lives.

Brenham Community Education classes are open to anyone in the community and surrounding counties. In general, you must be 18 to attend adult classes. The classes meet in a variety of locations throughout the community. Many are held at Brenham High School,

Brenham Community Education Building, and Blinn College. Some classes may occur at special locations and local businesses.

To check out a list of current classes, visit www.BrenhamCommunityEd.com, call 277-3895, or stop by the office at 1301 S. Market Street in Brenham between 8am-4pm Monday through Friday.

New Member

THE RUSTIC COTTAGE

Owner: Tricia Newman
 115 W. Alamo Street
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 832-602-6192
therusticcottageintexas@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/therusticcottageintexas
 Time in Business: 2 ½ years
 Clothing & Accessories
Monogramming, Screenprinting, Heat Transfer

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



Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...



Washington County Chamber of Commerce

314 S. Austin Street, Brenham | 979-836-3695

P.E.A.C.E. Program News

Core Essential Value of the Month for August

The P.E.A.C.E. program officially kicks off this month. School starts in Brenham ISD on August 16 and in Burton ISD on August 22, but Chamber Member businesses and organizations have already started promoting the first Value of the Month: RESPECT.

Brenham GameChangers along with Brenham ISD and Burton ISD have implemented Core Essential Values in the schools and now, through Chamber memberships in the Washington County Chamber, businesses have a brand-new opportunity to enhance the mission by becoming an advocate for "P.E.A.C.E." (Public Education Ambassadors for Community Engagement).

Contact us at the Chamber to be one of the first Businesses or Organizations to sign up for this program! The investment is only \$50 for 10 months of involvement, and you and your employees can make a big impact on the future of our local workforce.

Thank you to the following P.E.A.C.E. program partners who have signed up so far:

- Bank of Brenham
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center
- Blinn College
- Blinn College Alumni & Friends Association
- Boys and Girls Club of Washington County
- Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union
- Brenham Clinic
- Brenham Monument Company
- Brenham National Bank
- DI Truck and Trailer Repair
- Faith Mission
- Germania Insurance
- J & P Properties
- James Pharaon Creative
- Mid-Continental Insurance Services
- Thielemann Construction
- Van Dyke Rankin

Be on the lookout for creative things to happen at these local businesses as their employees promote and demonstrate RESPECT during the month of August.

If you know students in grades K-4 in local public schools, be sure to talk to them about the Value of the Month and see what they are experiencing in school and out in the community.

Everyone in the community can help reinforce these Core Essential Values in our youth.

Did You Know?

That the Chamber provides hundreds of "Relocation Info" packages every year to individuals and businesses who are considering moving to this community. As a member, you are eligible to include your promotional material and reach this targeted audience for a nominal annual fee (\$85). Contact the Chamber office to be included.

Washington County Chamber of Commerce
314 S. Austin Street, Brenham
979-836-3695 | www.brenhamtexas.com



Partners for P.E.A.C.E.



WE PROUDLY SUPPORT
BRENHAM ISD AND BURTON ISD

The Chamber and Brenham GameChangers are working together to promote great things in our local public schools.





Leadership participants learn what makes this community work! They form new relationships and forge lasting bonds while touring community sites and hearing from local leaders.

Introducing the Leadership Class of 2018

The new class of Leadership Washington County participants convened this month with an Orientation held on August 2. The first full day session will be on Leadership Communication on August 29. There will be a Team Building Retreat at Camp For All in September. The participants will graduate from the program in May 2018.

The professionals listed below will be challenged, inspired and educated about the many facets of effective leadership and the structure of this community. During this program, participants will experience eleven in-depth sessions, meet top leaders in the community and form relationships that will aid them in their professional careers for years to come. They will also be treated to amazing, behind-the-scenes tours of some of Brenham's most unique businesses.

Participants in this year's Leadership Washington County program include:

Shannon Arens
Arens Services

Lacy Boggan
Brenham State Supported Living Center

Kevin Boggus
City of Brenham

Richard Cervantes
Blinn College

John Chancellor
Blinn College

Zachary Coufal
Ballard & Fleetwood

Brad DeLoach
Camp Blessing

Heather Delso
Seidel Schroeder

Steven Drake
*Brenham Economic
Development Foundation*

Angelica Gamboa
*Boys & Girls Club
of Washington County*

Chad Gandy
Brenham Fitness Center

Angelia Gerhard
PlanNorth Architectural Co.

Christopher Hardy
*Moorman Tate Haley
Upchurch & Yates*

Jamey Johnson
Brenham ISD

Jessica Johnston
Brenham ISD

Harper Lange
Computer Helpers

Kari Mika
Brenham Clinic

Kyle Mueller
Bank of Brenham

Kim Norsworthy
Germania Insurance

Tonya Patterson
*CHI-St. Joseph
Brenham Family Medicine*

Joseph Taylor Phillips
Blue Bell Creameries

Tracy Pieper
Germania Insurance

Courtney Powell
*Washington County
Chamber/CVB*

Kerry Ray
Longwood Elastomers/Wabtec

Brenda Ritter
Burton ISD

Mike Ruffino
Longwood Elastomers/Wabtec

Blake Schwarze
Citizens State Bank

Jonathan Shuey
*Compass Quarters &
Shuey Building & Repair*

Kristi Starnes
Washington County 9-1-1

Jay T. Strasner
Brenham Banner Press

Cory Swor
Germania Insurance

Melinda VanOstrand
New Beginnings Life Ministries

Kathryn Wurts
Associated Credit Union of Texas

Shonda Ziese
Brenham National Bank

Leadership Washington County is hosted and coordinated each year by the Washington County Chamber with assistance from alumni of the program. It is one of the most meaningful ways to give back after you have received all the valuable training and experiences in the LWC program.

Watch this newsletter for photos and articles about the new class over the next several months as they learn and grow together as professionals and leaders.

WASHINGTON COUNTY "ADOPT-A-SIGN" PARTNERS

Precision Lawn Management
— U.S. 290 West Sign

Glasco & Company Landscaping
— Hwy. 36 North and South Signs

Wise Landscaping — Hwy. 105 Sign

To ensure the long-term care of the Welcome Sign monuments at the five entry points to Washington County, four landscaping companies from our community have volunteered to oversee their maintenance.

Tourism News

Chappell Hill Lavender & Wine Fest

On Saturday, Aug. 12, enjoy a countryside neighborhood festival with Chappell Hill Lavender Farm and Windy Winery, featuring tastings, crafts, vendors, music, lavender cuisine, and demonstrations.

The Lavender farm is open 9am-4pm, and Windy Winery is open 11am-6pm. There is free parking and free admission at both locations. Wine tastings and grape stomps have fees.

This is a fun and unique annual event right in our own backyard that you should plan to experience this summer!

Tourism Tuesday Update

The Tourism Tuesday meeting in July featured a tour of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum with the meeting held in the Wehring Shoe Shop, with lunch following at White Horse Tavern, all in Burton.

Eighteen attendees learned interesting facts about the history of growing and harvesting cotton, a major agricultural crop in early Washington County. The meeting included hearing updates from each tourism partner present.

The next Tourism Tuesday meeting is slated for September 12 starting at 10 a.m. in the Chamber conference room.



Attendees learn how difficult it is to hand-separate cotton fluff from cotton seeds at the Texas Cotton Gin museum.



Jerry Moore explains how the actual ginning operation works to attendees at July's Tourism Tuesday meeting.

Annual Photo Contest awaits your entry

Have you taken any great photos this summer? Perhaps during a visit to Washington on the Brazos or at a Hot Nights Cool Tunes outdoor concert? If you have, then you should pick up an Annual Photo Contest entry form from the Chamber or Visitor Center (or download it from www.visitbrenhamtexas.com) and submit your entry. Cash prizes await three lucky winners.

The deadline to enter is Dec. 31, but if you wait until the last minute you may forget during the holiday rush. Submit your photo entries at any time between now and December 31.

National Association meets in Brenham



The 16th annual Reguladores National Event was held in Brenham July 20-23, and by all accounts it was a success! Attendees raved about the beauty and hospitality of the area.

The Reguladores club consists of motorcycle enthusiasts who are veterans and law enforcement members, plus families and friends. Their goal is to generate interest in riding motorcycles and safety, and they raise money and donate to other non-profit organizations.

Hosted by the West Houston chapter, hundreds of members from dozens of chapters all over the country came together for fun, friendship and fundraising. This year they partnered with two outstanding local charities, Citizens on Patrol and Adam's Angels Ministries, and they were able to raise thousands of dollars to benefit the two groups!

Crush for Fun at Pleasant Hill Winery

Stomp grapes and personalize a t-shirt with your purple feet to remember the fun! Afterward enjoy wine tasting on the deck. Fun for the whole family! Tastings and stomps have fees. Stomps take place on weekends beginning July 22 through Aug. 13.

Working for YOU!

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

WALK-INS

Visitor Center
July 2017 — 742

HQ Building
July 2017 — 678

WEBSITE

www.BrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors
July 2017 — 10,438

Total Pages
July 2017 — 20,403

WEBSITE

www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors
July 2017 — 22,173

Total Pages
July 2017 — 42,448

Harvest Grape Stomp at Windy Winery

Enjoy a hayride, grape picking, barrel stomping, and a "purple feet" T-shirt. Don't forget your camera. Tastings, food and grape stomps have fees. The festivities will run through Aug. 13. Saturday hours are from 11am to 5pm and Sunday hours are from 12pm to 4:30pm. Windy Winery will open at 9:30am on Aug. 12 for Wine and Lavender Fest. The winery is located at 4232 Clover Road in the Independence area.

Split Second Piano Duo at Festival Hill

"Four Hands, Two Keyboards... A Rich Combination of Sounds and Colors." Plan to experience this superb concert on Saturday, Aug. 19, at 3pm. Roberto Hidalgo and Marc Peloquin perform as the Split Second Piano Ensemble. The program, merging North American and Latin American influences, is thoroughly crowd-pleasing. Ticket information is online at www.FestivalHill.org.

First Sunday Funday

You will want to plan ahead to enjoy the fun in Downtown Brenham on the next First Sunday Funday! It will be on Sept. 3, during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

There will be shopping, dining and live entertainment at several locations, RAIN or SHINE! Plus some merchants will have extended hours for your shopping pleasure. Find details online on at [Facebook.com/BrenhamBounce](https://www.facebook.com/BrenhamBounce).

It's almost Fair time!

Beginning Sept. 15 and running through September 23, experience the "Oldest County Fair in Texas" at the Washington County Fair. Enjoy live shows, rodeos, Nashville entertainment, a carnival, crafts, food, livestock and poultry auctions, commercial exhibits and attractions. Activities and entrance fees vary by day.

View the schedule at www.WashingtonCoFair.com.

Brenham/Washington County

YPO

Young Professionals Organization

Networking Happy Hour
Tuesday, August 22
Held at Tegeler Toyota
1515 Hwy 290 W., Brenham
5-7 p.m.

Join in for some great networking!

For more information about the Washington County YPO, send your contact information to youngpros@brenhamtexas.com or visit online: www.Facebook.com/YPOwashingtoncounty

**Like us on Facebook
@Brenham.Texas**

**Follow us on Instagram
@visitbrenham**

What's Happening in August

Until Aug 24

"Lightness of Weight" Metal Art

Sculpture by artist and designer Jen Forman. Back Lot Gallery, 308 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham behind Ant Street Inn. Gallery hours Fri-Sat 12-7pm, Sun 11-4pm.

Aug 11-12, 18-19, 25-26

Live Music at The Kenney Store

Varying artists. Grill opens at 3pm weekdays, noon on weekends, music starts around 8:30pm, 811 S. Loop 497 (www.TheKenneyStore.com).

Aug 11

Ribbon Cutting -

Padgett Hearing Aid Center

Please join in welcoming this new Chamber Member, 10am, 103 W. Alamo St., Downtown Brenham.

Aug 11-13, 18-20, 25-27

Live Music at Home Sweet Farm

In the biergarten every Saturday night enjoy live music, craft beer, wine and fun in a relaxing outdoor environment. Musical acts change weekly. Biergarten & market opens at noon, music starts at 8pm.

Aug 11-13, 18-20, 25-27

Brazos Valley Brewery Patio Open

Enjoy craft beer with friends, Friday 5-10pm, Saturday 12-8pm, Sunday 1-6pm, 201 W. First St., Downtown Brenham (www.BrazosValleyBrewery.com).

Aug 12

Chappell Hill Lavender & Wine Fest

Countryside festival with Chappell Hill Lavender Farm and Windy Winery, featuring tastings, cuttings, crafts, vendors, music, demonstrations and more. Lavender Farm 9am-3pm, Windy Winery 11am-6pm, free admission.

Aug 12, 19, 26

"Step Into the Past" Tours

Multiple historic sites throughout Washington County are open for you to explore from 10am-5pm, full details online (www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com/step-into-the-past).

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

Flying Horses Antique Carousel

Ride a piece of history at Fireman's Park in Brenham. Open weekends now through October, Sat 11am-4pm, Sun 1-4pm, \$1 per rider.

Aug 12-13

Harvest Grape Stomp at Windy Winery

Enjoy hay rides, grape picking, barrel stomping, T-shirt. Tastings, food, and activities have fees. Winery hours are Saturday 11-6 and Sunday noon-5. (www.WindyWinery.com).

Aug 12-13

Crush for Fun at Pleasant Hill Winery

16th Annual Crush for Fun grape stomping event at Pleasant Hill Winery. Get purple feet and a souvenir t-shirt. Food and other vendors along with regular tours and tastings. Tastings and stomps have fees. Winery hours are Saturday 11-6 and Sunday noon-5pm (www.PleasantHillWinery.com).

Aug 12

Fireman's Fiesta

Annual event benefiting our fire department! All-you-can-eat Sirloin Steak & Sausage Meal, dine-in or drive-thru, numerous auction items, 5:30-8pm, Brenham Fireman's Training Center, 979-337-7300.

Aug 13

Gospel Sunday

Featuring Rob Moorman and Company, 1:30-3:30pm, The Kenny Store (www.TheKenneyStore.com).

Aug 15

Ribbon Cutting - Bustles & Bow Ties Boutique

Please join in welcoming this new Chamber Member, 2pm, 212 E. Main St., Downtown Brenham (www.bustlesandbowtiesboutique.com).

Aug 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31

Play in the Clay

One night make your own pieces, return a second night to decorate/glaze. \$80 per person for 2 classes, Tuesday and Thurs-

days from 7-9 pm. Arrangements can be made for other nights. Reserve seats (979-289-3765, www.BluebonnetPottery.com).

Aug 17

Connect After 5

Sponsored by RE/MAX Advantage and held at new location of LJ's BBQ, 1407 W. Main St., Brenham.

Aug 17

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring Vicki Wehmeyer, McKenzie Jones, Ella & Minnie Jordan and the Bluebonnet Opry House Band, doors open at 5:30pm, food served at 6pm, show starts at 7:30pm, \$5 admission (www.FriendsOfBluebonnetOpry.com).

Aug 19

Health Fair

Exhibits by HEB Pharmacy, Brazos Valley Blood Donation, Brazos Valley Council of Government for Health Insurance, Faith Mission, Viles of Life, Brenham Hospitals and Clinics, Helping Hands, Senior Citizens Centers, New Beginnings, Brenham Community Health Clinic and much more, 10am-2pm, Mt. Rose Missionary Baptist Church, 204 Kerr St., Brenham (www.mtrosebrenham.org).

Aug 19

Living History Saturday

Staff and volunteers dressed in period clothing bring to life the people and events of Old Washington providing a unique opportunity to discover various aspects of life surrounding the birth of the Republic of Texas (www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

Aug 22-Sept 26

Cancer Thriving & Surviving Program

Six week two-hour program to help participants learn about exercises, treatments, therapies, communications, and more, 9-11am, Baylor Scott and White Community Wellness Center, 2111 S. Day St., Brenham (979-830-5017).

Aug 22

Ribbon Cutting -

American Cancer Society

Please join in welcoming new ACS leadership, 2:30pm, Chamber Conference Room, 314 S. Austin St., Brenham.

Aug 22

YPO Happy Hour at Tegeler Toyota

Networking event for Young Professionals of Washington County, ages of 21 to 45, from 5-7pm, at Tegeler Toyota, 1515 US Hwy. 290, Brenham.

Aug 24

10th Annual Tailgate Party

Plan to have fun at the Chamber's 10th Annual Tailgate Party at Silver Wings Ballroom. The community is invited, tickets are \$35, details are online at www.BrenhamTexas.com.

Aug 26

Walk With A Doc:

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

This month's program from Brenham Clinic and Adam's Angels with fun activities for kids! Bring walking shoes for this free, family-friendly event. Carousel Rides, Snow Cones and Face Painting, 9-11am, Fireman's Park, Brenham.

Aug 31-Dec 7

Sewing Club

Fun weekly meetings with creative projects, practical techniques and sharing in the joy of sewing! Students ages 9+ welcome, 4pm-5:30pm, \$275 per semester, contact Sarah Jane for more information at 979-551-0970 (SewFunSewing.Weebly.com).

Aug 31

Cooking Class with David from Design II

Learn how to make an amazing Cajun Seafood dish, 5-8pm, at Brenham Country Club, \$27++ for members and \$30++ for non-members, reserve by August 24 at noon (979-836-1733, www.BrenhamCC.com).

CALENDAR *continued on page 8*

Washington County Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 15-20 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.

Michael Branton
Seidel Schroeder

Darlene Denman
Washington County Chamber

Joyce Dickschat
Brenham National Bank

Wendy Frazier
Associated Credit Union of Texas

Eddie Harrison
Retired-Brenham Municipal Judge

Tammy Jaster
City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Florence Julian
Retired-Individual

Crystal Locke
City of Brenham

Brice Milliorn
Edward Jones Investments

Michelle Panko
Barking Ranch Pet Resort

Linda Pipes
Retired-School Teacher

Kathy Randermann
KTTX 106.1/KWHI 1280

Debra Wenckens
Brenham State Supported Living Center

Christy Schlottmann
Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency

Randy Weidemann
Van Dyke Rankin & Company

Matt Wellmann
Wellmann Insurance

Barbara Wilganowski
Spherion Staffing

Kristie Wensel
Brenham State Supported Living Center



Seidel Schroeder



Kruse Village

New Presidential Members

The Washington County Chamber is proud to welcome Seidel Schroeder and Kruse Village to the Presidential level.

Presidential level membership demonstrates a commitment to building a better local economy by supporting the Chamber's work in advocacy, education/workforce development, talent attraction and leadership development. It is an

investment in the future of Washington County. Benefits include premium recognition in the Chamber Magazine, newsletter and eNews, invitation to all Presidential Roundtable events, a table at the Annual Banquet, recognition on the Chamber website, plus the first option to sponsor Chamber events, guaranteed selection of one participant to the

Leadership Washington County program each year, and preferred placement seating at all Chamber events.

Please join us in thanking Seidel Schroeder for their commitment to the Chamber of Commerce as the entity that unifies the spirit of this community and directs it into constructive channels.

Calendar

Continued from page 7

Until Nov 8

Donate your New and Gently Used Shoes

Help raise funds for CASA FOR KIDS by donating your shoes at 2309 S. Day St., Brenham (www.WeSpeak4Kids.org).

September Highlights

Sept 1

Brenham ISD 142nd Anniversary Celebration

Introducing four Distinguished Alumni for 2017. Get tickets by August 23 or until sold out. Call Jackie Eckert at 979-277-3700 ext. 2102, or stop by BISD Adm. office at 711 E. Mansfield, Brenham.

Sept 15-23

Washington County Fair

Mark your calendars now! The Oldest County Fair in Texas is coming soon! Visit www.WashingtonCountyFair.com for a schedule of events.

Three Ways to Influence Credit Card Acceptance Fees

As the world marches toward a cashless society, businesses are left to brave the landscape of accepting credit cards. This can prove to be a daunting task for merchants who would rather spend time concentrating on running their business. Credit card fees can seem complicated, overwhelming and expensive. Merchants know that they need to pay fees to accept credit cards. Credit card processing can make running a business more efficient and it makes customers happy.

Rather than paying these fees blindly, every business can influence and help control these costs through three simple, effective actions. Will Watson, our advisor from Infintech, explains three simple ways to influence your credit card processing fees

1. Understand Your Current Pricing Structure: There are many types of credit card processing models. Some you may have heard of are flat-rate, tiered or cost-plus. In most cases, being set up on the cost-plus (pass-through) pricing model will deliver greater visibility into the actual network rates and expose areas for

significant savings. According to Watson, "Find out which model you are set-up on and if it benefits your business the most. The majority of the time you are going to want to be on cost-plus pricing."

2. Apply for Special Rate Categories: Many business types have access to special rate categories to promote more card usage. These special rates are available to charities, governments, hotels and B2B, just to name a few. Watson recommends, "Ensure you understand if special rates apply to your business type and make sure you are set up to qualify for them."

3. Provide Enhanced Data: A good rule of thumb with credit card payments is: "The more data you send with each transaction, the lower the cost." This is especially important with business and corporate card processing, where the fee for a single transaction can range greatly. By simply passing more information with each transaction, you can reduce your card fees by 30-40%.

Watson says, "Make sure your company is passing along the right amount of data to

maximize your savings. If you are accepting payments from business, purchasing or corporate cards you can qualify for lower cost processing fees."

Here is a recent Washington County Chamber member testimonial:

"For more than two years, we've worked with Will Watson at Infintech and have been pleased with his knowledge, professionalism, and customer service. In addition to the competitive rates, we like that Infintech partners with the Chamber. We highly recommend their services to other businesses."

— Daphne Kohring, Controller, Appel Ford & Hyundai of Brenham

Infintech is an endorsed affinity partner of the Washington County Chamber. To learn more about how your Chamber membership can decrease your credit card processing fees on average by 30-40%, contact Infintech advisor Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 or will.watson@agent.infintechllc.com. More information is online at www.infintechllc.com/washington.



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