

Chairman of the Board
Kyle Merten
Blinn College Foundation

First Vice Chair
Randy Wells
*Faith Mission
and Help Center*

Second Vice Chair
Amanda Stolz
Seidel Schroeder

Secretary
James Pharaon
Germania Insurance

Treasurer
Walter Jackson
*Brenham ISD
Superintendent*

Immediate Past Chairman
Kurt Alfred
Brenham National Bank

Darren Huckert
Jones|Carter

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

Edna Kennedy
*Burton ISD
Superintendent*

Jeannie Kroll
Brenham Clinic

LaVerne Krumrey
Brenham Monument Co.

Jim Kruse
Bank of Brenham

Lloyd Powell
Brenham Police Department

Cyndee Smith
Oldham Goodwin Group

Edward Smith III
*Ninety Six West
and The Citadel*

Brad Stufflebeam
*Home Sweet Farm
Market & Biergarten*

Jenny Van Dorf
Blue Bell Creameries

Kristie Wensel
*Brenham State
Supported Living Center*

Gena Wilimitis
Miracle Farm

Man and Woman of the Year Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to start thinking about who deserves the honor of being selected for the 2017 Man and Woman of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Awards.

This is a long-standing tradition of the Washington County Chamber, recognizing the achievements of two extra-special individuals each year. The tradition includes the announcement of the winners at the Annual

Award

AWARD continued on page 7



Annual Banquet Date Announced

The 2018 Annual Banquet of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Brenham Economic Development Foundation will be held on **Tuesday, Jan. 30**. The event will be hosted at the Firemen's Training Center on Hwy. 290.

Details about the speaker, sponsors and program will be unveiled later this month. Invitations will be mailed to all Chamber members. Mark your calendars now to make sure you save the date!

Tickets will go on sale on Jan. 2, 2018. Reservations for corporate tables may be called in to the Chamber office at (979) 836-3695.



Chamber Says Farewell to Retiring Directors

These outstanding volunteers will retire as Chamber board members this month. They have been closely involved with the mission of the Chamber since January 2015:

Kurt Alfred, *Brenham National Bank*; **Tammy Jaster**, *City of Brenham - Blue Bell Aquatic Center*; **James Pharaon**, *Germania Insurance, James Pharaon Creative*; and **Cyndee Smith**, *Oldham Goodwin Group*.

Randy Wells of *Faith Mission* served as First Vice Chair in 2017, and he will remain on the board in 2018 as Chairman of the Board.

These volunteer leaders have been valuable members of committees and projects over the past three years. They will be greatly missed from the board's monthly meetings, but we

FAREWELL continued on page 7

"CONNECT AFTER 5"

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

HOSTED BY:

Bank of Brenham

501 S. Austin St., Brenham

Thursday, Jan. 18 from 5-7 p.m.

Plan to do some casual networking and enjoy free drinks and refreshments. Bring business cards to share and enter for door prizes. You are encouraged to bring a door prize to donate and further promote your organization!

This event is free for Chamber members and employees.

Learn more about Bank of Brenham at www.BankBoB.com

Thank you to our Centennial Sponsors ...



Ribbon Cuttings



New Member

Bombshell Salon

Owners: Kelly Antkowiak & Cassie Staggs
2403-E S. Market St., Brenham



New Location

Jet Set Chocolates

Owners: Raymond and Debbie Davis
2403-D S. Market St., Brenham



New Member

Weikel's Bakery

General Manager: Nick Hensley
2155 Hwy 290 W., Brenham



Groundbreaking

Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited

Owners: Lindi Braddock and Camaron Pruiett
603 Medical Court, Brenham



Jennifer Phillips, President of the Young Professionals Organization of Washington County, rang the bell for donations for the Salvation Army for the holidays.



Grand Opening

Kruse Recreation Center

Owner: Blinn College
208 Blinn Blvd., Brenham

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Page Michel, President & CEO
Jane Hinze, Member Services Mgr.
Shae Janner, Business Programs Mgr.
Dawn Konieczny, Communications Coordinator
Jenny Mills, Website & Social Media Mgr.

Courtney Powell, Visitor Center & Group Mktg. Coord.
Jennifer Phillips, Visitor Center Coordinator
Cheryl Sevin, Bookkeeper
Support Staff: Cindy Ross,
Jeanine Presswood and Nelda Snow.

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

BJ ELECTRIC
ONE STOP SERVICE COMPANY
Residential - Commercial
Electrical - Data Cabling
Service Calls
BUS: 1-866-926-6225
www.bjelectricinc.com

TECL 22459

Residential • Farm & Ranch • Commercial
RE/MAX Advantage
Boo Christensen
Broker/Owner
110 East Alamo Street
Brenham, TX 77833
Cell: (979) 277-8426
Office: (979) 251-7500
Fax: (979) 353-4289
Email: boo@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.

infintech
SMARTER PAYMENT PROCESSING
An i3 Vertical Company
Contact Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 • will.watson@infintechllc.com
www.infintechllc.com

Renewing Members

November 1-30

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.

Schovajsa's Catering — 37 years
 H & H Machine Service — 33 years
 Bevers Kitchen — 32 years
 Chris McCarty, DDS, Pediatrics — 32 years
Del Sol Food Company/Briannas
 - **Presidential Member** — 29 years
 Luedemann Feed & Farm — 26 years
 Emerson — 25 years
 Moore Supply Company/
 The Bath & Kitchen Showplace — 25 years
 Brenham Independent School District — 22 years
 Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union — 21 years
 Events by Room Service — 20 years
 UPS Store — 19 years
 Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant — 18 years
 Prairie Hill Farm — 18 years

RWG Construction Management — 18 years
 Norman's Pharmacy — 17 years
 Independence Historical Society — 16 years
 BlissWood Bed & Breakfast Ranch — 15 years
 Brazos Valley Pediatric Dentistry — 15 years
 Front Porch — 13 years
 Brenham Grill — 12 years
 Texas Broadband — 12 years
 Ubeo Business Services — 12 years
 Leftovers Antiques Home Mercantile — 11 years
J Hill Properties - Presidential Member — 10 years
 St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill — 10 years
 Adam's Angels Ministry — 9 years
 Brenham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center — 9 years
 Our Integrity Works LLC — 9 years
 American Legion Buddy Wright Post 48 — 8 years

St. Mary's Catholic Church — 8 years
 Washington County Habitat for Humanity — 8 years
 Absolutely Fabulous Salon — 7 years
 Fellowship Baptist Church — 4 years
 Leslie Wood Consulting — 4 years
 Nails Creek State Park
 — Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. — 4 years
 Round Top Real Estate — 4 years
 Brenham Family Dental — 3 years
 Noble Living Studios — 3 years
 10X Graphics & Marketing — 2 years
 Enterprise Rent A Car — 2 years
 The Bee Team — 1 year
 Fringe Salon — 1 year
 Kelling Photography — 1 year
 Main Street House — 1 year

New Members

BOMBSHELL SALON
 Owners: Kelly Antkowiak & Cassie Staggs
 2403-E South Market Street
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-830-0672
 kellyalmighty00@yahoo.com
Salon

**BRENHAM ISD
 EDUCATION FOUNDATION**
 President: Kim Weatherby
 PO Box 1147
 Brenham, Texas 77834
 Phone: 979-251-4857
 khorne@brenhamk-12.net
 www.brenhamisd.net/page/edfound.home
Education

DON ERVIN, ATTORNEY AT LAW
 Owner: Don Ervin
 110 N. Baylor Street
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 713-223-1622
 donervin@mac.com
 www.donervin.com
Attorney

JANCY ERVIN INTERIORS
 Owner: Jancy Ervin
 108 N. Baylor Street
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-836-2127
 jancyervin@gmail.com
 www.jancyervin.com
Interior Design

SUNFLOWER REALTY LLC
 Owner: Lewis Houser
 14255 Whitman Road
 Washington, Texas 77880
 Phone: 832-724-7612
 houserlewis@aol.com
Real Estate

TRANQUILITY LANDSCAPES
 Owner: Howard Webster
 2315 South Market Street
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-830-9119
 info@tranquilitylandscapestexas.com
 www.tranquilitylandscapestexas.com
Landscaping/Lawn Service/Materials

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



Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...





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

Ant Street Inn, Associated Credit Union of Texas, Bank of Brenham, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Blinn College, Blinn College Alumni & Friends Association, Blue Bell Creameries, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, Brenham Clinic, Brenham Monument Company, Brenham National Bank, Burton Chamber of Commerce, Compass Quarters, DI Truck and Trailer Repair, Faith Mission, Germania Insurance, Independence Coffee Company, J & P Properties, James Pharaon Creative, Mid-Continental Insurance Services, Seidel Schroeder, Thielemann Construction, Van Dyke Rankin, and Woodson Lumber Company of Brenham.



Banner-Press "Letters to Santa" deadline - December 15

Santa's mailbox is up at the Chamber! The deadline to have letters reach the North Pole in time is December 15. This is also the deadline for children's letters to be printed in a special section in *The Banner-Press* newspaper. Children's drawings may also be dropped in the mailbox.

Many more events can be found online at VisitBrenhamTexas.com or in the **FREE VisitBrenham App!**

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
Brenham ISD

Joyce Dickschat
Brenham National Bank

Coy Fontenot
Kruse Village

Wendy Frazier
Associated Credit Union of Texas

Eddie Harrison
Retired-Brenham Municipal Judge

Tammy Jaster
City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

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

Shelby Wiesepape
Bank of Brenham

Barbara Wilganowski
Spherion Staffing

Kristie Wensel
Brenham State Supported Living Center

Exploring Washington County's History

The November session of Leadership Washington County took the group back in time. The day was planned and facilitated by Shae Janner (LWC Class of 2015).

The day began in the historic Simon Theater in Downtown Brenham, featuring the "Step Into The Past" film presented by Barry Brass (LWC class of 2008). The film reveals why our city was named after Dr. Richard Fox Brenham and features local actors depicting important trailblazers in the history of the city.

Barry walked the group over to Toubin Park to reveal the hidden wonders of a large

system of historic cisterns that run beneath Brenham Streets. Downtown Brenham's picturesque Toubin Park is recognized as a State Archeological Landmark.

The group then traveled by bus to the Birthplace of Texas, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. The group was greeted by Houston McGaugh, director of the Star of the Republic Museum and then toured the museum. Next they walked to Independence Hall where they enjoyed hearing the history of how "Texas Became Texas" in that very spot. The visit ended with a tour of Barrington Living

History Farm.

Next, the group traveled to Independence where they had lunch in the old Independence School House. Mark Rosenbaum (LWC Class of 2017) gave the group a history of the schoolhouse and property. Then the group toured Independence Baptist Church, the oldest continuously active Baptist church in the State of Texas, where Sam Houston was a member and was baptized.

The session ended with an informative tour of the Texas Cotton Gin & Museum in Burton. The class had the opportunity to

peruse museum artifacts and watch a movie about the 1914 gin and the ginning process with Museum Director Steph Jarvis. Then a museum assistant gave the class an up-close tour of the gin. Once a year, the 1925 Bessemer Type IV engine gets fired up to gin and bale cotton during the annual Cotton Gin Festival held in April.

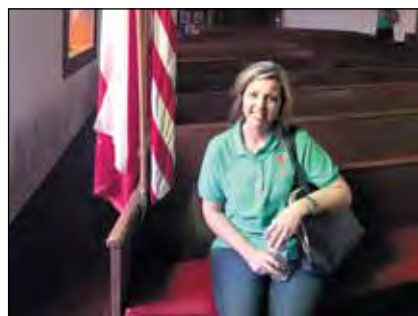
Leadership Washington County is a program of the Washington County Chamber aimed at educating and motivating current and future leaders. This year's class will graduate in May and the next class will form in July 2018.



Texas Cotton Gin Museum Director Steph Jarvis talks about the early days of cotton picking.



The class hears the history that occurred inside Independence Hall.



Kristi Stamnes sits in the pew where General Sam Houston and his family sat.



Jonathan Shuey stands by the original bell of the church, which long ago fell and cracked.



Barry Brass welcomes everyone to the historic, renovated Simon Theatre.



Kerry Ray looks inside the cistern located downtown in Toubin Park.



Chris Hardy takes a look at a sword on display at the Independence Baptist Church Museum.



The group ended its session at the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton.



Star of the Republic Museum Director Houston McGaugh greets the class.

WASHINGTON COUNTY "ADOPT-A-SIGN" PARTNERS

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.

PLM Texas

— U.S. 290 West Sign

Tranquility Landscapes

— U.S. 290 East Sign

Glasco & Company Landscaping

— Hwy. 36 North and South Signs

Wise Landscaping — Hwy. 105 Sign

Tourism News



"I needed to run off some pie!"

Where's Della?

Do you know where Della is this month? Email your name, phone number and location guess to Della@BrenhamTexas.com by December 31. A winner will be chosen on January 2 from all correct entries.

Last month in November, Della went in search of birthday pie and found a big, delicious slice at Bevers Kitchen in Chappell Hill. In addition to a well-sized menu of local flavor, pie rounds out every meal with the perfect amount of sweetness. Take some of the stress off yourself – order Christmas pies from Bevers Kitchen or one of our other great local bakeries/restaurants!



Congrats to Charlie Moser, the November contest winner!

THANK YOU!

Puppy Dawgs & Cat Tails, located at 321 S. Baylor St. in Downtown Brenham, for being the "Where's Della" partner and gift sponsor!

Travel Tip:

"I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places."
— Henny Youngman

Photo Contest

Submit your photos of Brenham & Washington County and you could win \$250! Submissions will be taken online until December 31, 2017. Voting will also take place online in January, and three winners will be chosen and announced in February. All photos depicting your vision of Brenham/Washington County life are welcome. Details and contest rules are online at www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com.

Brenham Gifts



The Visitor Center has unique gifts for you and yours all year long. Stop by to see the selection of Brenham t-shirts, ornaments, magnets, local books and more.

Upcoming Fun Around Town

— **Lane of Lights** – Fridays & Saturdays through December 23, 6-9pm. Head out to the country for a fun family event for all ages. Enjoy a hayride through a lighted path of Christmas reflections. Cookies, wassail or hot chocolate at the Dog Run House. Visit Santa Claus at the North House or just sit around the big fire and listen to Christmas music. All proceeds of this event go to the Ledbetter Volunteer Fire Department.

— **"Elf the Musical Jr."** – On December 15 at 7pm and December 16 at 2pm and 7pm. Brenham Children's Chorus and Brenham Broadway Kids & Chorus perform the Broadway musical based on the beloved holiday film at Blinn College. This hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity.

— **The Story of Christmas: Dickens Style** – In Independence on December 16 at 2pm and December 17 at 11am, enjoy seeing and hearing the story of Christmas displayed through beautiful music, Christmas carolers, and Charles Dickens himself telling the story of Christ in a new and refreshing way in the historic Independence Baptist Church.

— **Uptown Swirl** – January 13 from 3-7pm in Downtown Brenham. Swirl in and out of shops as you taste a variety of wines in a keepsake glass. Glasses are for sale in downtown shops and the Visitor Center for \$35 before December 31 or \$40 after. Purchase online: www.DowntownBrenham.com

— **Movie at the Simon** – January 13 at 7:30pm. Enjoy the movie, Under the Tuscan Sun, with your friends in the restored Simon Theatre after the Uptown Swirl. Online tickets: www.TheBarnhillCenter.com

Courtney's Corner

Do you have a meeting or group event coming up and would like to provide out-of-town guests with a little something special? We happily provide welcome bags with information on local attractions and amenities, along with souvenirs/mementos to help visitors remember their time in Washington County.



For larger groups that stay overnight, VIP speakers and guests, or if you are traveling to a conference to promote this area, we can also provide a "Taste of Washington County" gift box that includes area information, souvenirs and tasty locally-made items. Give us a call or stop by the Visitor Center to arrange these services. They are free with advance notice.

Ask Jennifer

"Is Blue Bell currently giving tours of the creamery?"

There is much fun to be had at Blue Bell, even though full creamery tours have not yet been reinstated.

However while ice cream is being made, visitors are invited to view production from the observation deck.

The outdoor grounds provide perfect photo opportunities, especially during the holiday season. Take your picture with the Kruse brothers or with Belle, the famous Blue Bell cow.

Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm, visitors enjoy learning the history of Blue Bell Creameries in the beautiful Visitor Center filled with video kiosks, pictures and timelines.

In addition to great shopping in the Blue Bell Country Store, you can relax in the Ice Cream Parlor with a scoop or two of your favorite flavors.

As an added bonus to all the ice cream fun, the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association hall of fame is also on site on the first floor of the Ice Cream Parlor building. Stop in and see how many names and faces you recognize!

Admission is free.



Working for YOU!

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

WALK-INS

Visitor Center Nov. 2017 — 616 HQ Building Nov. 2017 — 581

WEBSITE

www.BrenhamTexas.com
Unique Visitors Nov. 2017 — 8,143 Total Pages Nov. 2017 — 16,112

WEBSITE

www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com
Unique Visitors Nov. 2017 — 12,193 Total Pages Nov. 2017 — 92,056

What's Happening in December

Dec 15-16, 22-23, 29-30

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).

Dec 15-17, 22-23, 29

Live Music at Home Sweet Farm

In the biergarten every weekend, enjoy live music, craft beer, wine and fun in a relaxing outdoor environment. Musical acts change weekly. Visit the website for more information (www.HomeSweetFarm.com).

Dec 15-17, 22-23, 29-30

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).

Dec 15-16, 22-23

Christmas Lane of Lights

A fun family event for all ages. Enjoy a hayride through a lighted path of Christmas reflections, cookies, wassail or hot chocolate, Santa Claus, \$8 per person, 6-9pm, FM 1291 and HWY 290, Downtown Ledbetter.

Dec 15-16

Elf the Musical Jr.

Brenham Children's Chorus and Brenham Broadway Kids present this Junior Broad-

way musical. Blinn College O'Donnell Center, Brenham, 7-9pm (www.brenhamchildrenschorus.com, 979-277-3897).

Dec 16-17

The Story of Christmas: Dickens Style

Displayed through music, carolers and Charles Dickens himself tells the story of Christ in the same church Sam Houston attended. Free admission, Independence Baptist Church, 10405 FM 50, Saturday 2-4pm, Sunday 11am-2pm (979-530-6906, 979-836-5117).

Dec 16

Living History Saturday

At Washington on the Brazos, staff and volunteers bring to life the people and events of Old Washington and life surrounding the birth of the Republic of Texas (www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

Dec 16

"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).

Dec 16

Inspiring Hope Art Show

Benefiting child survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation through Hope Rising, a faith-based nonprofit organization, at Ant Street Inn, 107 W. Commerce St.,

Brenham, 6-8:30pm, \$60 (www.hoperisingministries.org, sherri@hoperisingministries.org).

Dec 17-18

Bethlehem in Independence Live Nativity Scene

Live Nativity Scene in Downtown Independence. Cowboy Santa will arrive on fire truck at 6:30 p.m. Hot chocolate, hot dogs, cookies, crafts, 6-8pm (979-836-4211, 832-473-2930).

Dec 18

Brenham Choral Society "Messiah" Singalong

Local community chorus will present Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" with audience sing along, 7-8pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 2310 Airline Dr., Brenham (www.stpetersbrenham.org).

Dec 19, 21, 26, 28

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

Dec 21

Alzheimers & Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Support and education for those facing the challenges of caring for a loved one. Speakers present topical and educational info. 1-3pm, Hospice Brazos Valley, 302 E. Blue Bell Rd, free and open to public (RSVP 979-277-9525).

Dec 21

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring Terry Lynn Moore, Taylor Kubos, Ray Goodwin and Bluebonnet Opry House Band, doors open at 5:30pm, food served at 6pm, show starts at 7:30pm, \$5 admission (www.FriendsOfBluebonnetOpry.com).

Dec 31 - Jan 1

New Year's Eve at The Kenney Store

The party starts at 8pm with traditional New Year's Eve food, a full bar with drink specials, and live music by David Reynolds Band. Tickets to this special event must be purchased in advance online, \$25 (www.TheKenneyStore.com).

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year!

Jan 30

Chamber of Commerce and Brenham EDF Annual Banquet

Fireman's Training Center, 5:30pm, Tickets go on sale January 2.

Award

Continued from page 1

al Banquet of the Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Foundation. The 2016 recipients were Nina Hopkins and Frank Blizzard.

The next Annual Banquet will be held on January 30, 2018. Prior to the banquet, the immediate Past Chairman of the Chamber Board will convene a committee comprised of past award recipients to review all nominations and vote on the candidates for the current year.

If you know someone you would like to nominate for this honor, please fill out a nomination form. It includes the judging criteria. You may call to have a form emailed or faxed to you or download a PDF at www.BrenhamTexas.com. Completed nomination forms are due to the Chamber by noon on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Winners are only selected from nominations received. Please note that prior nominations (submissions from prior years) may be considered if resubmitted by the January 8 deadline.

Farewell

Continued from page 1

know they will always remain strong members of the Chamber and our local business community.

Please join us in thanking them for their years of service to the Chamber membership the next time you see them!

Congratulations to these seven newly elected board members who will begin their three-year terms of service in January: **Melissa Duckworth**, *Germania Insurance*; **Wendy Frazier**, *Associated Credit Union of Texas*; **Andy Hefferly**, *Morman Tate Haley Upchurch & Yates, LLP*; **Zelda Moore**, *EdVance Academy of Beauty*; **Ash Patel**, *Best Western Inn, Brenham*; **Hondo Powell**, *Bluebonnet Electric*; and **Jay Schroeder**, *Texas Farm Bureau Insurance*.



2014 Winner



2010 Winner

2017 Photo Contest

\$250 Grand Prize

Enter at VisitBrenhamTexas.com



2013 Winner



2016 Winner

CHECK US OUT ONLINE

WWW.BRENHAMTEXAS.COM

Stay Local, Play Local, 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 our Chamber Members will include HOT DEALS on our website to promote their 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

This Holiday Season

Keep Our Local Economy Strong!
Find 820+ local businesses at
www.BrenhamTexas.com

TOP REASONS BUYING LOCALLY BENEFITS YOU!

1. Right now, while this community is wanting to support local law enforcement and first responders, make this a priority in your family. Keep your dollars here.

2. By shopping in Washington County and paying local sales tax, your dollars stay here to fund city and county operations such as roads and bridges, parks, the library, police and fire departments and more.

3. Local businesses give better support to YOUR community groups. Non-profit groups receive an average of 350% more charitable support from local businesses than they do from non-locally owned businesses.

REMEMBER TO BUY LOCAL

Whether you are purchasing products or services as an individual or for an organization, choosing a locally-owned business:

- Keeps up to three times more dollars in our local economy
- Supports and strengthens local jobs and businesses
- Preserves and enhances our unique community
- Supports community groups, because nonprofits receive an average of 350% more support from local small business owners than they do from non-locally owned businesses.

4. Local businesses make up the largest employer base, giving more jobs to YOU and YOUR family.

5. YOU get more knowledgeable and friendlier customer service! You get to know your local merchants, and they get to

know YOU.

6. Spending \$100 at a local independent business creates a ripple effect of \$45 in additional local economic activity.

7. Shopping locally saves YOUR gas and YOUR time.

8. Local businesses preserve and enhance the unique character of Washington County. This makes it special for YOU and attractive for others to come spend their money here.

9. Shopping locally allows YOU to stay in better touch with YOUR neighbors and the local pulse of YOUR community.

10. Local businesses are more likely to utilize local advertising, banks, insurance companies and other local services.

11. Without the sales tax dollars that stay in Brenham and Washington County, YOUR property taxes would have to be approximately 14% higher!



The "Shop Local First This Holiday Season" campaign was a fun way for shoppers to win cash prizes in Chappell Hill, Downtown Brenham and Burton.



Ray L. Weiss, CLU®, FIC
Financial Consultant
 Brenham Area Associates
ray.weiss@thrivent.com
 Thrivent Pinnacle Leaders Group
 Thrivent Financial Hall of Fame

215 E Main St
 Brenham, TX 77833
 979-836-0693

Connecting faith & finances for good.™



Must Be Heaven

A franchise of Must Be Heaven Franchise Corp., Brenham, Texas

Charlie & Traci Pyle
Owners

OPEN ON SUNDAYS!
 MON.-SAT. 8:00am - 5:00pm
 SUN. 11:00am - 3:00pm

107 W. ALAMO ST.
 DOWNTOWN BRENHAM
 (979) 830-8536
 (979) 836-9913 fax
 e-mail pieguy_mbh@yahoo.com

Home of the
HEAVENLY
SPECIALS

THE CHAMBER IS PROUD MEMBERS OF ...

- TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS
- TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES
- TEXAS ASSOC. OF CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAUS
- U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WWW.BREHAMTEXAS.COM