

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

Annual awards & volunteer recognition announced at banquet

A crowd of over 500 attended the Annual Banquet held by the Washington County Chamber and Brenham Economic Development Foundation on January 31. The theme was "Centennial Celebration" and featured historical presentations by State Senator Lois Kolkhorst, retired County Judge Dorothy Morgan, former Chamber Board director Michael Groves and a former Chamber President Joe Al Picone. State Representative Leighton Schubert welcomed guests. Wesley Brinkmeyer served as Master of Ceremonies.

Thanks to all 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 Clinic
Brenham National Bank
Germania Insurance
Van Dyke Rankin Insurance
DI Truck & Trailer Repair

BANQUET *continued on page 3*



Frank Blizzard and Nina Hopkins were surprised and honored to be selected Man and Woman of the Year for 2016.



Centennial Highlights were presented by Michael Groves, Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Dorothy Morgan and Joe Al Picone.

"CONNECT AFTER 5"

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

HOSTED BY:

City of Brenham

@

The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre
111 West Main St., Brenham

Thursday, Feb. 23 from 5-7 p.m.

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

People like doing business with people they know.

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

Free for Chamber members and employees.

Thank you to our Centennial Sponsors ...



Business Spotlight

Personnel Services

“When you succeed, we succeed.” That is the philosophy at Personnel Services, an employer/employee service company dedicated to building long-term relationships with each of their clients in all aspects of their human resources needs. These long-term relationships allows Personnel Services to customize services for each client. Their services, defined by their clients and blended with a wide array of expertise within the Personnel Services organization, has led to their continued success.

Personnel Services of Brenham opened its doors in November of 1997 and has grown to be a strong part of the business community. “We took a leap of faith,” said Melissa Bedunah, EVP. “In the 90s, even though the need was there, opening a staffing firm in non-metropolitan areas was not considered by many in the staffing industry. This became our niche.” They currently have this corporate office plus eight other locations in Texas. Personnel Services of Brenham is located at 2554 Ryan Street. Visit www.psstaffing.com for more information.

Vincent's Roofing

Vincent's Roofing specializes in metal roofing. They make panels customized to fit your roof perfectly. The panel is called the VRI SS450 and is produced in the shop at Vincent's or on-site. The steel panel may also have a paint coating. They use the highest quality exterior finishes available. The result is a highly corrosion resistant coated steel that combines the barrier protection and extended durability of aluminum with the galvanic protection of zinc.

The benefits offered by today's metal roofs allow homeowners to upgrade with products of lasting value. Metal roofs are durable, fire retardant, almost completely maintenance-free, and energy efficient because metal reflects heat and blocks its transfer into the attic. A metal roof can also increase the resale value of your home and even lower homeowner's insurance by 35%.

Vincent's Roofing, Inc. is proud to offer clients the best roofing products, quality workmanship and unmatched warranties all at reasonable prices. By choosing a metal roof, you'll use less building material, fill up less landfill space with discarded material, and put less demand on our natural resources. Such incentives, along with the annual savings from owning a metal roof, make it increasingly popular. Call 979-247-4587 for a free professional quote.

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



ONE STOP SERVICE COMPANY
Residential – Commercial
Electrical - Data Cabling
Service Calls
BUS: 1-866-926-6225



TECL 22459

www.bjelectricinc.com

Ribbon Cutting



New Location

Mill Creek Custom Homes

Owners: Lance and Christie Abel
7220 Hwy 290 East, Chappell Hill



New Member

Makeup by Sherri Jo

Owner: Sherri Jo Brier
106 West Commerce St., Brenham



Groundbreaking-Expansion

A.W. Hodde Jr. Technical Education Center

2910 S Blue Bell Rd, Brenham

Facebook.com/Brenham.Texas

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



Grand Re-opening

Personnel Services

Customer Account Specialist: Donna Gandy
2554 Ryan St., Brenham



New Member

Main Street House

Owners: Suzy and Keith Hankins
409 E. Main St, Brenham



Networking Happy Hour
Thursday, February 16
at Brenham National Bank
2211 S. Day St., Brenham
5-7 p.m.

Join in for some good food, good drinks and a great time!

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

Washington County Chamber

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

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

Banquet

Continued from page 1

After the Centennial highlights presentation, Page Michel recognized retiring EDF board members Brett Smith and Donald Voelter their nine years of service. She also thanked several partner organizations including the City of Brenham, BCDC, Washington County and Bluebonnet Electric.

The Chamber's outgoing Board Chairman Kurt Alfred thanked retiring directors: Sharon Brass, Wesley Brinkmeyer, Cathy Cole, Suzy Hankins, Chad Gerke and Randy Weidemann. He also thanked the officers who served alongside him in 2016: Kyle Merten, Randy Wells, Walter Jackson and James Pharaon.

The Blue Blazers club president Brice Milliorn thanked the members for all their hard work helping to recruit and retain members. He announced the Blue Blazer of the Year award. It was won by Tammy Jaster for her enthusiasm and hard work for the program.

Nina Hopkins won the 2016 Woman of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Award. She was introduced by 2015 winner Twila Tate. Frank Blizzard won the 2016 Man of the Year Award, introduced by the prior year's winner Leon Toubin. 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 be of service to 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 to conclude a year-long Centennial Celebration. Cheers to 100 years!



Outgoing Chamber chairman Kurt Alfred (left) thanked fellow executive officers Wesley Brinkmeyer, Kyle Merten, Randy Wells, Walter Jackson and James Pharaon.



Retiring Chamber Board directors received plaques in appreciation: (L to R) Chairman of the Board Kurt Alfred, Immediate Past Chairman Wesley Brinkmeyer, Cathy Cole, Sharon Brass, Chad Gerke, Suzy Hankins, and Randy Weidemann.



EDF President Page Michel presented plaques to retiring directors Brett Smith and Dr. Donald Voelter.



The 2016 Blue Blazer of the Year award was won by Tammy Jaster (left) for outstanding service to the community, presented by Jane Hinze and Brice Milliorn.



Members of the Blinn College Choir performed the National Anthem to begin the evening.



State Rep. Leighton Schubert welcomes and congratulates the Chamber and all the volunteer leaders over the past century on this Centennial Year.

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



Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...



Renewing Chamber Members

Jan. 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.

- Texas Ranch Life — 18 years
- Woodforest National Bank — 10 years
- LaBahia Turn Verein - Event Center — 9 years
- Brenham Counseling Services — 6 years
- Smitty's Cafe and Bakery, Inc. — 5 years
- Bliss Candy Company — 4 years
- C & S Country Store Antiques — 4 years
- Dumas Walker Pepper and Pie Co. LLC — 3 years
- Texas Small Business Services — 2 years

"Wake Up, Washington County!" Networking Breakfast

Hosted by
Mill Creek Custom Homes
7220 Hwy 290 E.
Brenham

Thursday, February 16
Starts at 7:45 a.m.

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 Sponsor:
Express Employment Professionals

Find us on Facebook
@Brenham.Texas

Civics Lessons for Leaders

Leadership Washington County held its Civic Day session on January 12 with a day full of information on activities in the city and county, hearing from local government speakers and non-profit managers.

The class met at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center then traveled by bus to the Cannery Kitchen where they were hosted for breakfast by Faith Mission. Kirk Hanath spoke about his duties as County Commissioner of Precinct 3. He talked about how he became interested in politics and recounted some interesting stories of incidents he has had to address.

Faith Mission executive director Randy Wells then greeted the class and CEO J.D. Young shared a video demonstrating all the important services Faith Mission offers this community.

The group traveled to the City of Brenham Recycling Center on Market Street where they were greeted by the center's Superintendent Bobby Branham who showed the drop off process and what items

can be recycled at the location.

The session continued at the Brenham State Supported Living Center, where Kristie Wensel (LWC Class of 2015) Terry Boeker and Bonnie Schulte toured everyone across the outstanding campus. The group visited one of the cottages, the wheelchair fabrication shop, and also observed residents making crafts for the art store that showcases and sells their products.

Next the class traveled back to the City's Blue Bell Aquatic Center for a tour and presentation by Tammy Jaster (LWC Class of 2010). They next heard from Mission Brenham executive director Michael Haywood and were also addressed by Adam's Angels representatives Alesia Whaley and Eshanna Hemphill.

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 applicat



Randy Wells speaks about Faith Mission while County Commissioner Kirk Hanath listens on after his talk about elected official duties.



Bobby Branham gave an overview of the City's recycling center on Market Street.

New Members

CACHE CHIC

Owner: Tricia Legg
117 W. Alamo Street (Physical Address)
Downtown Brenham, Texas
21510 Pebble Pine Ct. (Mailing Address)
Cypress, Texas 77433
Phone: 281-799-8068
info@cachechic.com
www.cachechic.com
Gift Shop

MAKEUP BY SHERRIJO

Owner: Sherri Jo Brier
106 W. Commerce Street
Brenham, Texas 77833
Phone: 979-203-5227
sherribrier@gmail.com
www.makeupbysherrijo.com
Wedding & Event Services

NEXT CHAPTER ALPACAS

Owners: Randy & Cora Marburger
4290 Maass Road
Burton, Texas 77835
Phone: 214-395-8845
nextchapter.alpacas@gmail.com
www.nextchapteralpacas.com
Camelids-Alpacas

YOUR ACE VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Owner: Cora Belle Marburger
4290 Maass Road
Burton, Texas 77835
Phone: 214-395-8845
info@youraceassistant.com
www.youraceassistant.com
Business Services

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
Edwared 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

Barbara Wilganowski
Spherion Staffing

Kristie Wensel
Brenham State Supported Living Center

State Level Leadership

On January 24, the Leadership class traveled to Austin for the State Government session and received in-depth information about our state's legislative process and judicial process.

The group was greeted by State Senator Lois Kolkhorst and staff members, followed by lobbyist Joel Romo of Texana Public Affairs.

Next, State Representative Leighton Schubert joined the class in a hearing room at the Capitol along with his staff, and he talked about some of the issues his office is working on.

Lunch was enjoyed in the Capitol's cafe-

teria, which was a beehive of activity. The class then walked to the Texas Supreme Court building next to the Capitol. They received a rare chance to sit in the court and met with Justice Jeff Brown. Justice Brown talked about the purpose and procedures of the state's highest court of law.

Here are a few quotes from the day...

"Leadership Washington County created a unique experience for each class member with the state government session at the Capitol. Many people do not appreciate the time commitment of our elected officials and those that work with our elected officials to make a biennial session work," said

Andi Liner from Blinn College.

"The entire visit was a highlight for me. Each of our speakers seem to be humble down-home Texans. The best story was Senator Kolkhorst telling us about her recent trip to Washington D.C. for the 2017 Inauguration and having to walk a mile and a half to the location (due to security measures) in high heels and a long formal dress. She made it to her destination safely and gracefully represented the State of Texas proudly," Trina Crenshaw from Blue Bell.

"It is our responsibility as citizens and leaders to take advantage of every opportunity to network with elected officials about

important issues that might affect our community, especially during a legislative session," Dr. Edna Kennedy from Burton ISD.

The next session will focus on Education in Washington County and the class will visit several campuses and hear from local leaders.

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.



Senator Kolkhorst met with the class inside the Equal Rights Conference room of the Capitol.



Justice Jeff Brown speaks with the group inside the Texas Supreme Court.



Rep. Leighton Schubert addresses the class inside a hearing room at the Capitol.



Class photo inside the State Capitol.



Trina Crenshaw in the Supreme Court Chief Justice's chair.



The class with Rep. Schubert on the gold star of the outdoor Rotunda.

WASHINGTON COUNTY "ADOPT-A-SIGN" PARTNERS

Precision Lawn Management
— U.S. 290 West Sign

Designing Landscapes — U.S. 290 East 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

Tourism Tuesday Update

If you missed the January meeting, you missed a good one. Jenny Mills gave an excellent presentation about the online marketing program being conducted to attract visitors.

It was also decided to hold future Tourism Tuesday meetings at off-site destinations occasionally. The staff at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site have offered their site for the March 7 meeting. Details are still being worked out, but mark your calendars now for that morning and watch for an email with full details soon.



Jenny Mills informed the group about the outlets being utilized for online marketing by the Chamber-CVB.

Used Book Sale Benefits Library

The annual Used Book Sale will be held February 22-25 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The Fortnightly Club of Brenham has collected more than 20,000 gently used 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 hardback books, videos, DVDs and CDs.

The first day, February 22, is geared for 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 from 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.

Flint & Steel – Spark of Life

Starting a fire was a critical skill in the 1850's as fire was the main tool for light, heat, and food preparation. Head to Washington on the Brazos on Saturday, February 18, to see how flint, steel, and char cloth can be used to ignite a fire. Park hours are daily 10am-4:30pm; fees are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids, FREE with Texas State Parks Pass. www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.com

“Diary of Anne Frank” at Unity Theatre

In this powerful adaptation, Anne Frank confronts her rapidly changing life and the increasing horror of her time with honesty, wit and determination. A drama about the lives of eight people hiding from the Nazis in a concealed storage attic, *The Diary of Anne Frank* captures the claustrophobic realities of their daily existence. Each day of those two dark years, Anne's voice shines through: “When I write I shake off all my cares. But I want to achieve more than that. I want to be useful and bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death!” February 9-26, 12 performances. Thursdays 7:30 pm, Fridays & Saturdays 8 pm, Sundays 4:00 pm. Find more details at www.unitybrenham.org.

Valentine's Concert in Round Top

On Saturday, February 11, from 2-4pm, enjoy “It's All About Love!” The World's Greatest Love Songs. This concert is the Round Top Festival Institute's annual Library Benefit and Concert with Dick Smith and Friends. After, join Festival Hill staff and friends on the Concert Hall stage for a reception. Have an opportunity to sponsor a book of your choice for the Adopt-a-Book Program and bid on silent auction items. Your ticket enters you for a chance to win door prizes. Find ticket information online: www.festivalhill.org

Popovich Comedy Pet Theater at Blinn

On Thursday, February 16, at Blinn's O'Donnell Performing Arts Center, enjoy this show for the whole family, featuring a unique blend of comedy and juggling skills of former Moscow Circus veteran Gregory Popovich and the extraordinary talents of his performing pets. The entourage consists of world-class jugglers, Diamond the Shetland Pony, the German goat duo Kurt and Helga and over 30 performing pets including house cats and dogs (all rescued from animal shelters!), geese, white doves and parrots. The Popovich Comedy Pet Theater has a rich performance history, presenting thousands of shows in more than 20 countries and is currently in its 6th season at the Planet Hollywood Resort/Casino in Las Vegas. The show will start at 7pm. Find more details at www.blinn.edu/boxoffice.

Lee Harvey Oswald at the O'Donnell Center

Written and produced at the Hampstead Theatre in 1966, this moving drama is told through the eyes of Oswald's wife, his mother, and extracts from the Warren Commission's report. The audience follows the unsettled drifting life of Lee Harvey Oswald, his loveless marriage to his Russian wife, and his pathological hatred of Kennedy's life and achievements. Dates: February 23, 24 and 25 at 7 pm, February 26 at 2 pm. Tickets \$8. www.Blinn.edu

Eve of Texas Independence

On Friday March 3 at 6pm, enjoy an authentic 1836 evening with dignitaries who declared Texas a free and sovereign nation. Mingle and dine on elegant fare of the era. Delight in live period music, entertainment & feature movie: Houston, The Legend of Texas. Tickets includes a beverage, dinner, live entertainment and movie. \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Period food served by Funky Art Café. Tickets can also be purchased for the movie only, shown at 8 pm for \$10 per adult, \$5 per child under 12. Tickets can be purchased online at DowntownBrenham.com/EveofTexas.

Texas Independence Day Celebration

Beginning on Saturday, March 4, at 10am, this is an annual two-day celebration featuring live music, food, traditional crafts, living history presentations, firing demonstrations, historical encampments and commemorative programs. The 2017 keynote speaker will be Judge Ken Wise who will speak on Sunday, March 5. Judge Wise sits on the court of appeals and has his own podcast, “Wise About Texas.”

TOURISM continued on page 8

Save the Date for the Centennial Celebration Picnic!

Friday, March 24 | 11am – 2pm | Fireman's Park

Food sponsors are now being sought for this fun community-wide event!

\$500 Picnic Sponsor - Your business name will be included in online/email promotions for the event, in the event program, and in a powerpoint slide show at the event. This level also includes one exhibit space at the event.

\$100 Exhibitor - Receive one exhibit space at this outdoor event to promote your products/services. Spaces are limited and are anticipated to sell out fast. (Includes 1 uncovered long table and 2 chairs.)

Watch for an email with full details. Contact us at 979-836-3695 or email.centennial@brenhamtexas.com if you're interested in being a sponsor.

Working for YOU!

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

WALK-INS

Visitor Center Jan. 2017 — 452 HQ Building Jan. 2017 — 673

WEBSITE

www.BrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors Jan. 2017 — 7,278 Total Pages Jan. 2017 — 14,835

WEBSITE

www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors Jan. 2017 — 13,131 Total Pages Jan. 2017 — 26,115

What's Happening in February

Until Feb 26

The Art in Fiber 2017 "Apparitions"

Laura Viada, handweaver and fiber artist, Henkel Square Market, Round Top, Sunday 11am-4, Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, free admission (www.HenkelSquareRoundTop.com).

Feb 9-26

"Diary of Anne Frank"

Unity Theatre presents this powerful adaptation based on "Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl." Curtain times: Thursday 7:30pm, Friday-Saturday 8pm, Sunday 4pm (www.UnityBrenham.org, 830-8358).

Feb 10

Ribbon Cutting for 3 new Downtown Brenham businesses: Loll & Dauts, Cache Chic, Tegg Art Studio

Join in welcoming these new Chamber members, 11am, 115 W. Alamo St. (117 & 119), Downtown Brenham.

Feb 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, March 3-5

Live Music in the Biergarten

At Home Sweet Farm Market, times vary, 307 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham (www.HomeSweetFarm.com).

Feb 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, March 3-5

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).

Feb 11

"Step Into the Past" Tours

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

Valentine's Concert w/ Dick Smith & Friends

Library benefit and fundraiser, 2-4pm, Round Top Festival Institute, 248 Jaster Rd., Adults \$30, Students \$10 (www.FestivalHill.org).

Feb 12

Brenham Clinic 60th Anniversary Celebration

Brenham Clinic will celebrate 60 years of service to Brenham, Washington County and surrounding areas, 1-3 p.m. in the Main Clinic Lobby, 600 N. Park St. Refreshments, door prizes, recognition and surprises will be had (www.BrenhamClinic.com).

Lifetime Learning:

Fernando Casas, Part 2

Why are the Paintings of Vincent Van Gogh so Moving? Blinn College Student Center Conference Room, 3-5pm, (www.LifetimeLearningBrenham.org).

Feb 13-28

Quilt Exhibit: "Comfort & Glory"

Annual exhibit from Winedale Historic Quilt Collection, 10am-4pm, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top (www.cah.utexas.edu/museums/winedale.php).

Feb 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, March 2

Play in the Clay

One night make your own pieces then 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).

Feb 15

Ribbon Cutting: Bluebonnet Auto Insurance

Join in welcoming this new Chamber member, 2550 Ryan St., Brenham, 3pm.

Wine Down

Enjoy wine & artisan cheese and \$1 off house wine, 5-7pm, Home Sweet Farm Market and Biergarten 307 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham (www.HomeSweetFarm.com).

Feb 16

Wake Up, Washington County! Networking Breakfast

Bring plenty of business cards, and donate a gift from your business for a door prize! Mill Creek Custom Homes, 7220 Hwy 290 East, Chappell Hill, 7:45am.

Young Professionals Organization

Happy Hour

Join the YPO of Washington County at Brenham National Bank, live music by Allison Crowson, refreshments, 5-7pm, 2211 S. Day St.

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring Redd Volkaert former lead guitar player for the late Merle Haggard 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).

Popovich Comedy Pet Theater

Comedy featuring the extraordinary talents of dogs, cats, and other pets, Blinn Performing Arts Series at the O'Donnell, get tickets online, 600 Blinn Blvd., 7-9pm (www.Blinn.edu/boxoffice, 979-830-4024).

Feb 17-18

Chili When Its Chilly Cook Off

Raising money for veterans & troops with brain injuries, the Reboot program with the Boot Campaign. Six cooking categories, live music, auction, raffle, golf cart parade, family fun, Lonestar Jellystone Yogi Bear Park, Waller, 2-10pm, \$15 wristband for the weekend, 10 years and under free. \$20 per cooking entry. (www.ChiliWhenItsChilly.com).

Feb 18

Living History Saturday

Third Saturday of each month, 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).

Hands on History

Join museum staff from 11am-4pm at Star of the Republic Museum to make crafts and toys. Discover what life was like for children in the 1830s in the newly renovated Pioneer Playroom. Star of the Republic Museum at Washington on the Brazos (936-878-2461).

Brenham Fine Arts League Art Show

Spring Juried Art Show of Brenham Fine Arts League members, 3-5pm, 113 W. Alamo St., Downtown Art Gallery, Brenham.

Feb 19

Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church Chicken BBQ

Chicken BBQ with all trimmings for Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church Camping Fund, 11am-1pm; 11am silent auction begins, noon live auction. Drive thru ticket pick up at Appel Ford. Advance ticket sales only \$10. Auction at Burton Community Center (979-203-8068, 979-836-8156).

Feb 20

Fruit Tree Management Seminar

Featuring Monte Nesbitt, topics to be covered are variety/site selection, pruning/planting demonstration, \$20 per person. Fruit trees will be available for purchase from the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners Association, Winedale Historical Complex, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top (www.BluebonnetMasterGardener.org).

Feb 22-25

Annual Used Book Sale

Fortnightly Club of Brenham sale of over 20,000 gently used books and collector volumes, Washington County Fairgrounds, 9am-6pm. Free parking.

Feb 23

Connect After 5

Hosted by the City of Brenham in The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre, 111 West Main St., Downtown Brenham, 5-7pm, free for Chamber members and employees.

Feb 23-26

Lee Harvey Oswald

Written and produced at the Hampstead Theatre in 1966, this moving drama is told through the eyes of Oswald's wife, his mother, and extracts from the Warren Commission's report. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center, 600 Blinn Blvd, Brenham, 7-9pm, \$8 (www.Blinn.edu/boxoffice).

Feb 24

Lifetime Learning: Bill Gilmer, Economic Outlook for Houston & Gulf Coast

After the worst downturn in US oil markets, the Houston economy has suffered consequences. This lecture will assess Houston's economy performance and prospects for growth in 2017. Gilmer is Director of Institute for Regional Forecasting at UH Bauer College of Business. Blinn College Student Center Banquet Room, Brenham, 11:30-1pm, \$25, register by February 17, (www.LifetimeLearningBrenham.org).

Feb 25

St. Paul's Christian Day School Gala Celebration

This fun, adult-only dinner and dance event will be held at Fireman's Training Center, 6-11:30pm, Brenham (swinkelman@stpaulsbrenham.org).

Feb 28

Glenn Shepard Seminar "How to Supervise People and Lead a Team"

Energize your team, learn strategies to solve workplace problems, 8:30am-12 noon, Washington County Fairgrounds VIP Building, \$129 for Chamber Members, \$149 for non-members; when 3 or more enroll together, a 4th person is free (979-836-3695, shae@brenhamtexas.com).

March Highlights

March 2

Ribbon Cutting: KWIK KOPY Business Center

Join in celebrating with the new business owners, 2305 S. Day St., Brenham, 4:30pm.

March 4

James Dick in Concert

Round Top Festival Institute, 248 Jaster Road, 3-5pm (www.FestivalHill.org, 979-249-3129 or 979-966-3590).

Heritage Society Gala

Festive evening with cocktails, dinner and dancing to the Black Cat Choir. Senior Heritage Belles will be presented to Heritage Society members. Live and silent auctions, 6-10pm, Giddings Stone Mansion, 2203 Century Circle, Brenham (www.giddingsstonemansion.com).

March 4-5

Texas Independence Day Celebration

Two-day celebration of 181st anniversary of Texas Independence featuring live music, food, crafts, living history presentations, firing demonstrations, historical encampments and commemorative programs. Watch cooking, weaving and craft demonstrations, and walk trails as Texas forefathers and pioneer families, Washington on the Brazos, 10am-5pm, free (www.WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

March 8

Ribbon Cutting: Associated Credit Union of Texas

Join in welcoming this new Chamber member, 2509 Becker Drive, Brenham, 11am.

March 9

Ribbon Cutting: Select Furnishing

Join in celebrating at this new location, 1900 Hwy 290 West, Brenham, 4pm.

Connect After 5

Enjoy networking, delicious food and refreshments, hosted by Select Furnishings, 1900 Hwy 290 West, Brenham, 5-7pm.

Tourism

Continued from page 6

Special guests and entertainment will include Texas A&M University Singing Cadets; the historical play "The Birth of a Republic" about the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence; family reunions of the descendants of the 59 men who signed the Declaration; wreath laying ceremony at the Children's Monument; demonstrators and musicians will bring old time music, crafts and additional historical reenactments; and walking the same trail as Texas' forefathers and pioneer families.

Texas musicians and actors will provide musical and theatrical entertainment. A Kids History Zone will allow children to dress up in historical costumes; sign a large scale copy of the Declaration; and takes photos near the Declaration.

"Two for Texas," will also be shown Saturday at 7pm at The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre in Downtown Brenham. This exciting Texas Independence film stars Tom Skerritt, Peter Coyote and Kris Kristofferson. Doors open at 6:30 pm. For reservations or more information: www.DowntownBrenham.com/EveOfTexas. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Winners of 2016 Photo Contest

Judges have made their selections from a number of photo entries from the annual "A Slice of Life in Washington County" Photo Contest. Grand prize was awarded to perennial winner Murry Grigsby of The Woodlands for his "spring time" image of a country scene filled with wildflowers.

Second prize was granted to another past winner, Michael Mallory, for his perfectly arranged grouping of longhorns complete with a Texas flag-painted barn in the background.

Third prize went to Murry Grigsby for his lively photo of scarecrows sporting the message, "Happy Fall Y'all."

Thanks to all our entries; watch for details of the next photo contest coming soon.



Spring time is captured in this Grand Prize image submitted by Murry Grigsby.



Longhorns pose perfectly for 2nd place winner Michael Mallory.



Smiling scarecrows greet fall visitors, by 3rd place winner Murry Grigsby.

Tourism Industry Conference

Jenny Mills and Courtney Powell from the Chamber-CVB traveled to Waco to attend the Texas Association of CVBs Mid-Winter Conference. They attended various educational sessions to learn about the current tourism industry and gain new ideas for marketing the Washington County area.

The conference started off with an opening session about the importance of storytelling in today's tourism world, then a welcome dinner with surprise guests from HGTV's show "Fixer Upper." While Chip and Joanna were unavailable, metal artist Jimmy Don Holmes was! Jenny and Courtney were thrilled to meet Jimmy Don – not just because of the TV show, but because he is also the son of our Visitor Center Assistant Debby Welch!

Tuesday was a full day of learning with inspiring general and breakout sessions. Staff learned how to partner more with State Parks, video tips and group services. Wednesday concluded the conference with more networking and a tour of revitalized history in Waco.



Courtney Powell and Jenny Mills pose for a photo with HGTV's show "Fixer Upper" metal artist Jimmy Don Holmes.

Did You Know?

... 1836 was the year Washington County, Texas was founded.

... in 1843 Brenham was founded and named for Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, a patriot of the Republic of Texas.

... in 1846 Baylor Female College (now Baylor University) was established near Independence where columns of the original building still stand.



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 pleguy_mbh@yahoo.com

Home of the
HEAVENLY
SPECIALS



Chris Mires
Operations Manager

P.O. Box 481
Brenham, Texas 77834-0481
(979) 277-0811 (work)
(979) 277-9001 (fax)
cmires@republicservices.com