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Union of Texas*

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Academy School of Beauty*

Hondo Powell  
*Bluebonnet Electric  
Cooperative*

Lloyd Powell  
*Brenham Police Department*

Edward Smith III  
*Ninety Six West  
and The Citadel*

Brad Stufflebeam  
*Home Sweet Farm  
Market & Biergarten*

Jenny Van Dorf  
*Blue Bell Creameries*

Gena Wilimitis  
*Miracle Farm*



**LEFT PHOTO:** Bliss Candy Company was named the 2018 Small Business of the Year for businesses with 1-25 employees. Pictured are (from left) Washington County Chamber of Commerce President Page Michel, Bliss Candy owners Cynthia and Sammy Timpa, and state Rep. Ben Leman. **RIGHT PHOTO:** South Texas Tack was named the 2018 Small Business of the Year for businesses with 26-100 employees. Pictured are (from left) Michel, South Texas Tack owners Steve and Nancy Martin, and Ben Leman.

## Small Business of the Year Awards won by Bliss Candy Company, South Texas Tack

At the Small Business Forum on June 12, two local businesses received an impressive distinction, having been selected as the “Small Business of the Year” for 2018. The awards were given out in two categories: businesses with 1-25 employees and those with 26-100.

State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst greeted everyone at the Forum when the awards presentation commenced. She congratulated each award winner and thanked all attendees for their dedication to serving the community.

Newly sworn-in State Rep. Ben Leman also addressed the crowd and talked about his background with starting a small business and his appreciation for the sacrifices that small business owners make every day to meet payroll demands and grow their businesses.

For the Washington County awards, Chamber president Page Michel remarked that it was a difficult selection process, “because we are fortunate to have so many outstanding businesses in this community.” She explained that both of this year’s winners “truly stand out for their commitment to excellence and growth in their industries and for providing their customers with amazing products and services.”

The first award (business size 1-25) was presented to **Bliss Can-**

**dy Company.** Sammy and Cynthia Timpa are the company owners and creators of Bliss Candy Company Fine Toffee. The business was started in the fall of 2006, but they have many more years of experience and a rich history.

Bliss Candy Company’s recipe came from Cynthia’s mother, who made toffee for every special occasion. Cynthia grew up learning the secrets of this delectable treat. She spent countless hours and dollars, making and throwing away batches of toffee. After many years, she finally perfected the technique, and has even improved it.

Today Bliss Toffee is the perfect combination of 4 ingredients, impeccable timing and lots of creativity. Since Cynthia and Sammy started the company, sales have exceeded their expectations, and they have to work very hard to keep up with demand.

Since locating their business in Brenham, Cynthia and Sammy have been involved in the community and support several clubs and organizations with fundraising. They are also active with the Washington County Rotary Club, Unity Theatre, Washington on the Brazos and Camp For All. They are members of Retail Confectioners International, and they volunteer with Be An Angel in Houston, helping children with special

needs and hearing impaired children.

Once you get a taste of Bliss Toffee, you understand the incredible success they’ve had. They are located at 2307 S. Market Street in Brenham, and also sell amazing cupcakes. The store is charming and so are these two entrepreneurs. You will enjoy the experience of shopping at Bliss, and then you will enjoy the memories made when eating their treats.

The second Small Business of the Year award (business size 26-100) was presented to **South Texas Tack.** South Texas Tack, a western retail store, was founded in Brenham in 2003 by Steve Mar-

tin, with ties to over a century of ranching, working cattle, showing horses and farming. It is known for the highest level of service, selection, and value for the western lifestyle. When they opened, it was a Tack and Saddle store with leather goods, animal health products, ropes, and saddles. In 2010, they completed their first expansion, adding apparel, footwear and a boot department. Soon after that, cowboy hats were added. In 2016, South Texas Tack started a catalog company to service customers nationwide and online with southtexasastack.com.

*AWARDS continued on Page 8*

### “CONNECT AFTER 5”

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

HOSTED BY:

**Seidel Schroeder**

Thursday, June 21 from 5-7 p.m.

2707 S. Market St., Brenham

*Drinks sponsored by Mike Hopkins Distributing.  
Exchange business cards & brochures and make new connections.  
Free for Chamber members and employees.*

# New Chamber Members

**BRIDGE MINISTRY OF BURTON TEXAS**  
Executive Director: Pam Knebel  
601 W. Main Street (Physical Address)  
P O Box 68 (Mailing Address)  
Burton, Texas 77835  
Phone: 979-289-2223  
burtonbridgeministry@gmail.com  
www.burtonbridgeministry.org  
*Thrift Store*

**COACHING WITH HART**  
Owner: Tina Bowne Hart  
936 Farmers Road  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 713-557-7979  
coachingwithhart@gmail.com  
www.coachingwithhart.com  
*Educational Services*

**DOUG & GRACIE SLATTERY**  
2208 Infield Court  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-277-5419  
Slatteryb7@aol.com  
*Champion Friend*

**ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
516 N. Colorado Street (Physical Address)  
P. O. Box 180 (Mailing Address)  
Burton, Texas 77835  
Phone: 979-289-2485  
stjohnsburton@gmail.com  
www.stjohnburton.org  
*Churches*

**SWARTZ SEPTIC, LLC**  
Owner: William Swartz  
3557 Wm B Travis Lane  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-661-6042  
swartzseptic@gmail.com  
www.swartzseptic.com  
*Septic System Installation*

**WALSH & MANGAN PREMIER REAL ESTATE GROUP-JULIA WELLMANN**  
Realtor: Julia Wellmann  
103 E. Academy  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-451-1057  
julia@walshmangan.com  
www.walshmangan.com  
*Real Estate*

# Ribbon Cuttings



*New Location*

## RE/MAX Advantage

Brokers: Johanna Fatheree, Pam Green & Boo Christensen  
200 W Alamo St, Brenham



*New Location*

## Edward Jones-Bill Starnes

Owner: Billy Starnes  
1904 S. Market St., Brenham



*New Service*

## Baylor Scott & White

Region CEO Jason Jennings  
VP of Operations John O'Hearn



*New Service*

## H-E-B

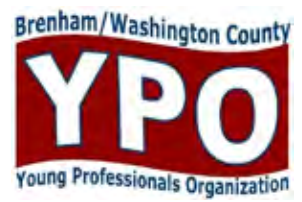
Unit Director: Larry Hargis  
2508 S Day St, Brenham,



*New Business*

## Mattrezzz Guys

Owner: Anthony Jasinski  
2668 Hwy 36 South, Brenham



Networking Happy Hour  
Thursday, June 14 5-7pm  
PlanNorth Architectural Co.  
107 S. Baylor St., Downtown Brenham  
Food provided by 96 West | Beverages by Mike Hopkins Distributing

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

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Web: [www.RealtorBoo.com](http://www.RealtorBoo.com)

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



# SEEKING A FEW GOOD MEN, WOMEN...

As a Chamber member, you are invited to join in the process to nominate future board members. The Chamber needs five to seven new board members each year to fill a three-year term. Suitable candidates will fit this description:

- An active member of the local business community

- Participates in Chamber events and programs
- A decision maker in his or her field
- Interested in serving as a volunteer
- A person with vision & leadership skills
- Interest in participating in the Chamber's annual Program of Work
- Able to attend monthly board

meetings, held the 3rd Wednesday each month at noon. Please give this some consideration and help us find the right people to steer the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. Submit nominations in writing from now until August 1st. You can send them by mail, fax or email. Thank you!

## Renewing Members

May 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.

- RR Donnelley — 45 years
- Botts Title Company — 43 years
- John Brieden State Farm Insurance — 37 years
- Newman Printing Company — 37 years
- Ant Street Inn — 26 years
- Moore Supply Company/  
The Bath & Kitchen Showplace — 26 years
- Brenham Clinic - Chairman's Circle Member** — 25 years
- Chappell Hill Sausage Co. — 25 years
- Coach Light Inn Motel — 25 years
- Bevers Real Estate — 23 years
- Citadel Christian School — 23 years
- BBA Architects — 22 years
- Brenham Dental Center — 22 years
- Brenham Ace Hardware — 21 years
- Kolkhorst Petroleum Company — 21 years
- Personnel Services — 21 years
- Camp For All — 20 years
- Volare Italian Restaurant — 20 years
- Texas Ranch Life — 19 years
- Fayetteville Propane Company — 18 years
- Tres Chic — 18 years
- Brenham Oaks — 16 years
- Webb Printing/Mailing Services Etc. — 16 years
- Corner Liquor Store — 15 years

- Krenek's Tractor Repair & Wrecker Service — 15 years
- Texas Home Health Group — 15 years
- Independence Coffee Company — 14 years
- Ranch Interiors — 14 years
- Toy Box Child Development — 14 years
- B & R Industries — 13 years
- Brenham Party Rentals — 12 years
- Budget Disposal — 11 years
- First Christian Church of Brenham — 11 years
- Jerry Olson Design — 11 years
- Knights Inn — 11 years
- Aesthetic & Acupuncture Clinic of Texas — 10 years
- Denny's #7916 — 10 years
- Hackberry Hill Guest Cottages — 10 years
- Ballard & Fleetwood, PLLC — 9 years
- Brenham Iron Works — 9 years
- Creatively Yours — 9 years
- Giddings Stone Mansion — 9 years
- RE/MAX Advantage-Pam Green — 9 years
- Redeemer Church — 9 years
- Today and Yesterday — 9 years
- Dona Lynn's Unique Gifts — 8 years
- Green Duct Services — 8 years
- CHI St. Joseph Health Primary Care —  
Presidential Member** — 7 years

- H & R Block — 7 years
- Kool Shades Window Tint — 7 years
- Premier Metal Buyers — 7 years
- Quality Glass — 7 years
- Rhodes Building Systems — 7 years
- Rodney's General Repair — 7 years
- Henkel Square Market — 6 years
- Hodde Real Estate Company-Tiffany Abrams — 6 years
- Ram Optical — 6 years
- Harmel Electric — 5 years
- Back Lot Gallery — 3 years
- Heart and Hand Bodywork — 3 years
- Smith Dairy Queen-290 West — 3 years
- Sugarlumps Guesthouse — 3 years
- Vincent's Roofing — 3 years
- Brenham Technical Services — 2 years
- Jet Set Chocolates — 2 years
- Shelton Technologies Global — 2 years
- The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon — 2 years
- 1st Texas Home Health — 1 year
- Brenham Homebrewer Supply — 1 year
- Brenham Women's Health — 1 year
- Cruise Planners — 1 year
- L & N Blinds and Shutters — 1 year
- Topper's Liquor and Wine — 1 year

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



Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...



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



*Thank you to these 34 dedicated Partners for P.E.A.C.E. who are making this program a success in Washington County. They help reinforce the Core Essential Values students are learning in local public schools at their businesses and through their employee interactions:*

- Ant Street Inn, Associated Credit Union of Texas, Bank of Brenham, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Blinn College, Blinn College Alumni & Friends Association, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Blue Bell Creameries, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, Brenham Clinic, Brenham Monument Company, Brenham National Bank, Brenham State Supported Living Center, Burton Chamber of Commerce, City of Brenham, Compass Quarters, DI Truck and Trailer Repair, Faith Mission, Germania Insurance, Independence Coffee Company, J & P Properties, James Pharaon Creative, Mid-Continental Insurance Services, Must Be Heaven, Personnel Services, Seidel Schroeder, Sonic Drive-In, Thielemann Construction, Unity Theatre, Van Dyke Rankin, Webb Printing, Westwood Cinema and Woodson Lumber Company of Brenham.



# Leadership Lessons in Emergency Management

The April session of Leadership Washington County was definitely one for the books. The class was able to see first-hand how emergency situations are communicated and executed from the command center downtown.

The class met at the Brenham Fire Department and were given a presentation by classmate Kristi Stamnes of Washington County 9-1-1. Firefighter Brian Scheffer then gave a detailed overview of operations of the department that interfaces with every local agency to protect the community. They gathered in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and got to experience what it might be like to be in a real-life crisis situation. They were then given a tour of the department and got to try out some of the gear. The Brenham Fire Department has been operating since 1867.

The group then traveled to the EMS station located at 1875 Hwy 290 West in Brenham where they had lunch, followed by a presentation from EMS Director Kevin Deramus. He explained what EMS does, its history and how they transport and care for patients. Then other paramedics demonstrated the Lund Hospital Cardiac Arrest System (LUCAS) on a mannequin. The class was given a tour of the down-time room, kitchen, dorms, weight room, the ambulances and other equipment.

Leadership Washington County is one of the key programs of the Washington County Chamber designed to train and motivate leaders for this community. The next class will form in July. For more details or to view the application form, visit the "Leadership" page on [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com).



**Jonathan Shuey, Jessica Johnston and Chad Gandy prepare their plan during the emergency drill.**



**Brian Scheffer gives a tour of the department engines.**



**LUCAS CPR Demonstration by Washington County EMS Paramedics.**

## 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

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

**Kathy Randermann**  
KTTX 106.1/KWHI 1280

**Matt Wellmann**  
Wellmann Insurance

**Darlene Denman**  
Brenham ISD

**Crystal Locke**  
City of Brenham

**Debra Wenckens**  
Brenham State Supported Living Center

**Kristie Wensel**  
Brenham State Supported Living Center

**Joyce Dickschat**  
Brenham National Bank

**Brice Milliorn**  
Edward Jones Investments

**Christy Schlottmann**  
Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency

**Shelby Wiesepape**  
Bank of Brenham

**Coy Fontenot**  
Kruse Village

**Michelle Panko**  
Barking Ranch Pet Resort

**Stephanie Wehring**  
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County

**Barbara Wilganowski**  
Spherion Staffing

**Eddie Harrison**  
Retired-Brenham Municipal Judge

**Linda Pipes**  
Retired-School Teacher

**Randy Weidemann**  
Van Dyke Rankin & Company

# Graduation banquet caps off year

To conclude the year and celebrate the class' achievement, an elegant Graduation Banquet was held at the Ant Street Inn on May 31, hosted by owners Keith and Suzy Hankins (LWC Class of 2013). The key-

note speaker was Brice Milliorn (LWC Class of 2014) and several class members presented their personal reflections on the year in a hilarious way. Members of the class also gave their own awards for each

session they attended. It was a fun evening with lots of laughs.

The next class will form in July. Any business interested in sponsoring an employee, or any individual who would like

more information, please contact the Chamber at (979) 836-3695 or info@brenhamtexas.com. Details about the program are available online at www.BrenhamTexas.com.



**Kristi Stammes, Jay T. Strasner and Kari Mika share memorable moments from each session.**



**Brice Milliorn gave a great keynote address on leadership by using the acronym CARE. A leader is Compassionate, Appreciative, Respectful, and Energetic.**



**Kevin Boggus receives one of the awards given for a memorable moment experienced during the Teamwork session.**



## Congratulations to the Leadership Class of 2018

**Shannon Arens**, Arens Services; **Bryn Behnke**, Blinn College; **Lacy Boggan**, Brenham State Supported Living Center; **Kevin Boggus**, City of Brenham; **Richard Cervantes**, Blinn College; **Zachary Coufal**, Ballard & Fleetwood; **Heather Delso**, Seidel Schroeder; **Kate Dubiel**, Associated Credit Union of Texas; **Angelica Gamboa**, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County; **Chad Gandy**, Brenham Fitness Center; **Angelia Gerhard**, PlanNorth Architectural Company; **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 Nor-sworthy**, Germania Insurance; **Tonya Patterson**, CHI-St. Joseph Brenham Family Medicine; **Taylor Phillips**, Blue Bell Creameries; **Tracy Pieper**, Germania Insurance; **Kerry Ray**, Longwood Elastomers; **Brenda Ritter**, Burton ISD; **Mike Ruffino**, Longwood Elastomers; **Blake Schwarze**, Citizens State Bank; **Jonathan Shuey**, Compass Quarters; **Kristi Stammes**, Washington County 9-1-1; **Jay T. Strasner**, Brenham Banner Press; **Cory Swor**, Germania Insurance; **Melinda VanOstrand**, New Beginnings Life Ministries; **Shonda Ziese**, Brenham National Bank.

# 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

## Where's Della?



Della sat on the deck and took in a lovely sunset while visiting this location, which is the oldest of its kind in Washington County.

Do you know where Della is this month? Email your name, phone number and location guess to Della@BrenhamTexas.com by June 30. A winner will be chosen on July 1 from all correct entries.

Congrats to Shae Westerfeld for guessing correctly last month that Della was at the Antique Rose Emporium! Famous for their hardy, antique rose varieties, the Antique Rose Emporium offers a beautiful, fairytale like setting to explore many different kinds of plants and garden setups. You can simply stroll through the landscaping, or purchase plants to add to your own collection. You can

also order through their website or over the phone. They recently added a new Garden Pub that is open on Fridays and Saturdays from around 12:30pm to 5pm where you can enjoy beer, wine, and other refreshments, along with light snacks.

### 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:

**"When preparing to travel, lay out all your clothes and all your money. Then take half the clothes and twice the money."**

— Susan Heller



## Summer Fun

Here are a few fun events to attend with your favorite people in June & July. Reconnect while stomping grapes and listening to cool tunes downtown. Find all events and details at [www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com](http://www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com).

**First Weekend Fun Days** in Downtown Brenham, starting with First Friday Farmers & Artisans Market from 3-7p.m. Continue the fun with Saturday Shops & Hops, a perfect day for shopping, live music and enjoying adult beverages at Brazos Valley Brewery, Home Sweet Farm and Roux Street. End the weekend with Sunday Funday pop-up games at the Courthouse in between shopping, brunch & lunch, art walks and live music.

**"Noises Off" at Unity Theatre** runs June 14 to July 1 with performances each Thursday-Sunday. New York Times quotes it as, "the most dexterously realized comedy ever about putting on a comedy." Get tickets at [UnityBrenham.org](http://UnityBrenham.org).

**Ezra Charles** will be performing live at the Simon Theatre on June 23 at 7pm. Find out where Boogie Woogie came from, why it originated, and what makes it different from every other musical form. Get tickets at [TheBarnhill-Center.com](http://TheBarnhill-Center.com).

**Grape Stomps** are a family-fun way to spend an afternoon! **Windy Winery** and **Pleasant Hill Winery** will be offering stomps during July and August which include wine tastings (grape juice for the littles) and t-shirts. More details at [VisitBrenhamTexas.com](http://VisitBrenhamTexas.com)

**Hot Nights Cool Tunes** summer concert series is returning for another offering of cool bands to listen to around the square of Downtown Brenham. Bring your lawn chairs for a full evening of fun each Saturday night in July. Enjoy live music, food and drink, late night shopping and a classic car show. Get the band lineup at [DowntownBrenham.com](http://DowntownBrenham.com).

**July 4th Celebrations** in Chappell Hill, Independence and Round Top, including parades, family fun activities and fireworks!

## Working for YOU!

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

### WALK-INS

Visitor Center May 2018 — 569      HQ Building May 2018 — 572

### WEBSITE

[www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com)  
Unique Visitors May 2018 — 6,407      Total Pages May 2018 — 15,569

### WEBSITE

[www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com](http://www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com)  
Unique Visitors May 2018 — 11,485      Total Pages May 2018 — 27,527

## Courtney's Corner

Summer is a time for reunions, meetups and group travel. If you are a part of a social group of any sort, or are looking to hold a family reunion or gathering, consider bringing your friends and family to Washington County! Many people don't realize all that the local area has to offer. With fun attractions, events, wineries, breweries, gourmet dining, theatre, historic sites and more, the Washington County area is sure to bring rave reviews from your guests.

Even during the hot hours of summer, there is still plenty to do that will keep you cool indoors. If you are going to host a group this summer, please give me a call so that I can help with planning details to ensure your event is a success. The Visitor Center phone number is 979-836-3696.



## Ask Jennifer

**"Are there any wineries open today?"**

Yes! There are four wineries in Washington County, and Saddlehorn Winery in Burton is open daily from 11am-6pm. Texas Star Winery in Chappell Hill is open Friday to Sunday from 11am-6pm. Windy Winery in Brenham is open Fridays & Sundays from noon-5pm and Saturdays from 11am-6pm. Pleasant Hill Winery is open Saturdays from 11am-6pm and Sundays from noon-5pm.

The summer is a great time to visit Washington County wineries, even with your kids. Harvest time for grapes is typically July and August, and both Windy Winery and Pleasant Hill Winery hold grape stomps each year. You can pick grapes, stomp them with your feet and put your stained footprints on a souvenir t-shirt!



## Staff Spotlight

Jeanine Presswood joined the team in 2011 as week-end support staff, and has been happily assisting visitors with her smile and southern charm ever since. Jeanine was born and raised in downtown Houston and worked for Spring Branch ISD, retiring in 2011.

She and her husband, Jim, have lived in Brenham for almost 20 years, attend First Baptist Church of Brenham, and enjoy traveling around the world together. In fact, they just returned from a cruise to Peru! Jeanine says Alaska is her favorite destination, but Portugal is a close second.

A fun fact about Jeanine that not many people know – she spent many years entertaining folks as a rodeo clown! Jeanine was also an auctioneer and is a very talented quilter.



# What's Happening in June

Now thru July 14

## Round Top Music Festival

Forty faculty and seven conductors will work with students in June and July on amazing music, find details online ([www.roundtopmusicfestival.com](http://www.roundtopmusicfestival.com)).

Now thru Nov. 14

## 100th Anniversary of WWI Exhibit: Texas and Washington County in the Great War

Brenham Heritage Museum and Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum partner to bring this multi-media interactive experience at Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum, 9220 Poplar St. ([www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com)).

June 14

## YPO Networking Happy Hour

Join the Young Professionals Organization of Washington County at PlanNorth Architectural Co. for networking, 5-7pm, 107 S. Baylor St., Downtown Brenham.

June 14-July 1

## Unity Theatre Presents Noises Off

A Michael Frayn comedy. Box office hours Mon-Fri 10am-2pm, 979-830-8358 ([www.UnityBrenham.org](http://www.UnityBrenham.org)).

June 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](http://www.TheKenneyStore.com)).

June 15

## Ribbon Cutting -

### Bridge Ministry of Burton Texas

Join in welcoming this new member, 601 N. Main St., Burton, 10am.

June 15

## 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](http://www.HomeSweetFarm.com)).

June 15

## Brazos Valley Brewery Patio Open

Enjoy craft beer with friends, Thursday 4-8, Friday 4-10pm, Saturday 12-8pm, Sunday 1-6pm, 201 W. First St., Downtown Brenham ([www.BrazosValleyBrewery.com](http://www.BrazosValleyBrewery.com)).

June 15

## Washington County Historical Juneteenth Association Concert

At Fireman's Park, enjoy Raa Raa and the Zydeco All Starz Band from Houston, 7-11pm, 979-836-5373.

June 16

## Farmers Market at WOTB

Fresh vegetables, fruit, baked goods, artisans and more, an average of 200 cars will be at the park on 3rd Saturday events, 10am-2pm, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park, 23400 Park Road 12 ([www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org)).

June 16

## Washington County Historical Juneteenth Association Annual Parade

Held in Downtown Brenham at 10:30am, more activities follow the Parade at Fireman's Park 12-4pm, public invited ([www.BrenhamJuneteenth.org](http://www.BrenhamJuneteenth.org)).

June 16-17, 23-24, 30-July 1

## Flying Horses Antique Carousel

Ride a piece of history at Fireman's Park, \$1 per rider. Saturdays 11am-4pm and Sundays 1-4pm, 901 N. Park St., Brenham. June 18-20, 25-27

## Beginning Wellness

Let the BBAC aid in your rehab. Classes at 5pm, Blue Bell Aquatic Center, 1800 E. Tom Green, Brenham. Monthly Aerobic Pass \$65, Senior \$55, Yearly \$600, Senior \$550 ([www.cityofbrenham.org](http://www.cityofbrenham.org)).

June 18-20. 25-27

## Water Aerobic Classes

Classes offer movements to improve range of motion, balance and coordination. Classes Mon, Tues, Wed at 6-6:45pm, Blue Bell Aquatic Center, 1800 E. Tom Green, Brenham ([www.cityofbrenham.org](http://www.cityofbrenham.org)).

June 18

## P90X Live

Total body workout incorporating strength and cardio. Bring a set of light to medium dumbbells, water and towel, Mondays 6:45pm, Wednesdays 5:20pm, \$40, Old Alton Gym, 1209 Mangrum, Brenham ([www.brenhamisd.net/page/commed.hom](http://www.brenhamisd.net/page/commed.hom)).

June 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29

## Aqua Cardio Class

Improve range of motion, balance and coordination while strengthening and toning. Classes at 9am, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, Blue Bell Aquatic Center, 1800 E. Tom Green, Brenham ([www.cityofbrenham.org](http://www.cityofbrenham.org)).

June 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. Reserve seats (979-289-3765, [www.BluebonnetPottery.com](http://www.BluebonnetPottery.com)).

June 21

## Up-cycled Glass Planters Class

Learn how to give old glass a new life by creating a self-watering planter from wine bottles. Materials provided. Flown the Coop, 701 N. Main St., Burton, contact Brooke for more info ([brooke.k.trahan@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.k.trahan@gmail.com)).

June 21

## Connect After 5 at Seidel Schroder

Have fun and bring business cards to share, free for Chamber members and employees, 2707 S. Market St., Brenham, 5-7pm.

June 21

## Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring David Lewis, Jack Phillips, Amanda Peilver 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](http://www.FriendsOfBluebonnetOpry.com)).

June 22

## Ribbon Cutting - Rusty Bird Cage Boutique & Salon and RBC Buildings

Join in welcome these new members, 3355 Hwy. 290 W., Brenham, 10:30am.

June 23, 30

## Chased by Mops and Buckets

Visitors can help clean windows, shake out rugs and learn how early Texans cleaned more delicate items, Washington on the Brazos State Park, free ([www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org)).

June 23

## Walk With A Doc

Take steps to a healthier lifestyle, brief "health talk" followed by 30-minute walk, bring friends and family and take part in one walk or entire series. Water, refreshments, t-shirts available (979-337-7254).

June 23

## Juneteenth Celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park

Celebrate the rich African American heritage and culture of the Brazos Valley, past and present featuring artifact exhibits, art displays, prominent guest speakers, living history buffalo soldiers and cowboys, church choir performances, food and more, 10am-4pm ([www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org)).

June 23

## Ezra Charles Concert - The Story of Boogie Woogie

Enjoy an evening of lively music at the historic Simon Theatre, find out where Boogie Woogie came from and what makes it different from every other musical form, The Barnhill Center, 111 W. Main St., Downtown Brenham, \$25 ([www.TheBarnhillCenter.com](http://www.TheBarnhillCenter.com)).

June 27

## Brenham Area Real Estate Investors and Landlords Meeting

Helping new and experienced investors in real estate investing/landlording, networking opportunities, vendors welcome, at Citizens State Bank, 2007 St. Day St., Brenham, 11:30am-1pm (512-468-3235, [jamesh7213@gmail.com](mailto:jamesh7213@gmail.com)).

June 27

## Young Professionals of Washington County Lunch Mob

Held the last Wednesday of every month, location announced the morning of both via e-mail and Facebook event page, send your name to be added to list ([washcoyp@gmail.com](mailto:washcoyp@gmail.com)).

June 28

## Central Texas Beekeepers Association meeting

Meeting in the VIP Building at Washington County Fairgrounds, Brenham ([www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org](http://www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org)).

June 28

## Ladies' Summer Night Out

Featuring speaker Darla Baerg presenting "Get To Heart in a Have To World." All are welcome. First Baptist Church of Chappell Hill, 7675 FM 2447, 7-8:30pm, free, RSVP ([women@fbcch.net](mailto:women@fbcch.net), 979-836-9777, [www.fbcch.net](http://www.fbcch.net)).

## July Highlights

July 4

### 4th of July Chappell Hill Parade & Cowboy Round-up

Biggest Small Town Parade in Texas, featuring World Famous Marching Kazoo Band, parade starts at 10am. Chappell Hill Historical Society will host Summer Cowboy Event with Rocking T Chuck wagon, Cowboy Bob, pony rides, petting zoo, oxen demonstrations. All activities and exhibits are free, food and beverages for purchase ([www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com)).

July 4

### 4th of July in Burton

Burton Community Center Pork & Beef Bar-B-Q and Annual Picnic, meal served 11am - 1:30pm, bingo 1pm-5pm, live auction at noon, silent auction until 2pm, raffle drawing at 5pm, Burton Community Center.

July 4

### 4th of July in Independence

11th annual event, 1pm trail ride; 3:30pm Red, White & Blue Water Balloon Fight; 5pm parade, 5:30pm street dance and live music; 9:30pm fireworks, in Downtown Independence.

July 6

### Farmer & Artisan Market

First Friday of the month in Downtown Brenham on Park Street by the Courthouse, 3-7pm ([www.downtownbrenham.com](http://www.downtownbrenham.com)).

July 7

### Burton Farmers & Artisans Market

All home grown and hand crafted items, sponsored by Burton Chamber, 9am-1pm, Texas Cotton Gin Museum Roy Winkler Family Pavilion, 307 N. Main St. ([www.BurtonTexas.org/farmersmarket](http://www.BurtonTexas.org/farmersmarket)).

July 7, 14, 21, 28

### Hot Nights, Cool Tunes Concert Series

Saturdays in July, bring lawn chairs to the Courthouse square and enjoy live music with the community, Classic Car Cruise-In, food and beverage vendors, free to the public, begins at 7:00 pm ([www.DowntownBrenham.com](http://www.DowntownBrenham.com)).

# Welcome New Blue Blazers Wiesepape, Wehring

Shelby Wiesepape was born and raised in Brenham. She is a 2010 graduate of Brenham High School. After high school she attended Sam Houston State University where she pursued a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies with a minor in Business. While attending Sam Houston she worked part time at a bank which led her to where she is now.

She is employed at Bank of Brenham in the bookkeeping/accounting department. She

also serves on the marketing committee where she works with other team members to develop unique ideas to promote the bank and their mission in the community. Shelby enjoys staying busy and attending community events of all kinds.

Stephanie Wehring was born in Houston, but Brenham has been home since first grade. Stephanie holds a degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences from Texas A&M Uni-



Wiesepape



Wehring

versity and a Certificate in Non-profit Management from The Bush School of Government &

Public Service at Texas A&M. She has a passion for helping others, as evidenced by her 25 year career serving various non-profit organizations across central Texas, most recently with The Rose and Health For All, but now proudly serving the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County as Executive Director.

Stephanie is an active volunteer in the community. She recently completed a three year term on the City of Brenham

Hotel Occupancy Tax Board as well as several other boards and committees in her church and throughout the community. She prefers to be "in the trenches" such as helping muck out homes in the wake of Hurricane Harvey or visiting shut-ins. She and husband Matthew will be celebrating their 12th anniversary in July. Stephanie loves to travel, take care of her menagerie of animals and spend time with family, including her 11 nieces and nephews.

## Why Go to Connect After 5?

The Chamber's "Connect After 5" (formerly "Business After Hours") networking events have always been outstanding events each month. Chances are if you want to see someone from the local business community, you will find them at "Connect After 5."

Many know the social benefits of attending. Many more are discovering the business benefits of attending. If you are not yet taking advantage of these networking opportunities, you should. Here are some tips for making the most of the opportunity:

- Wear a name tag. If you don't have one from your place of business, the Chamber will have some blanks at the event for you to fill in and wear. Name tags help people to remember your name and the

business you represent. (And some of us need more help than others in the memory department!)

- Bring your business cards. Give one to everyone you meet. This gives people your direct contact information, so they can do business with you after the event.

- Talk to people. Don't be shy! Initiate conversations with people you don't recognize. Let that be your conversation starter, "Hello, I don't believe we've met." Most people who attend are Chamber members, so you already have something in common. And most will be very willing to tell you about their business, so start by asking them what they do.

- Donate a door prize. Another way to get recognition at the event is to contribute a door prize to

be given away. Bring it to the Chamber before the event, or bring it with you that night. Everyone loves to win something, and this is a great way to make a connection with others.

- Get to know the host. Meet the business owner(s). Be sure to find the host and say hello. Take the tour of the property, if offered. Thank them for hosting the event.

- Come early and stay late. The longer you are there, the more people you will get to meet and the more who will meet you.

- Have fun! There is always great food and drinks. Everyone has a good time at the Chamber's after hours events. Make it a point to attend. It may be your most important business meeting of the month!

## Awards

*Continued from Page 1*

In early 2018, they launched a new company, LetsRope.com in order to service the roping community directly. And they have now broken ground on their latest expansion which will include a much grander retail experience, restaurant and outdoor courtyard.

When asked what they are most proud of, the owners say it is the South Texas Tack team. Their team consists of 30 full-time and 3 part-time employees, and they are comprised of experienced participants and competitors involved in the western lifestyle and equine arena. This combined experience in various disciplines gives them the knowledge to better serve customers world-wide. They are also proud sponsors of the Washington County Fair, the AQHA Youth World Cup, Junior Nationals Finals Rodeo, Stock Horses of Texas, Big Loop

Big Money, American Stock Horse Association, National Cutting Horse Association, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, and surrounding county fairs.

The Small Business Forum was hosted by the Washington County Chamber along with the Burleson County Chamber and Navasota-Grimes County Chamber. Awards were also presented to top businesses in the other two counties.

The two winners of the Burleson County Small Business of the Year awards were **B&C Wine and Spirits** and **Slovacke's Smokehouse**. The winners of the Navasota-Grimes County Small Business of the Year awards were **Miller Insurance** and **Camp Allen**.

During his presentation at today's forum, Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation President/CEO **Matt**

**Prochaska** announced to forum attendees that economic development representatives from each of the counties in the Brazos Valley Council of Governments have committed to regular meetings for discussions on the best ways to bring business to the Brazos Valley and help existing businesses expand. The BVEDC is committed to being a part of those talks spearheaded by the BVCOG. With the growth of business in Texas, there is a greater need to address regional competitiveness and the capturing of future economic opportunities. That will require active discussions to anticipate industry activities for our area.

Several other distinguished speakers were featured at this event including **State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst**; **Christian Collins** from U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady's of-

ice; **Russell Dempsey** from Express Employment; **Michelle Taylor** from Employer Flexible; **David Hagy** from Central Texas Partners; and **Johanna Fatheree** of RE/MAX Advantage, who served as M.C. for the event.

Headline sponsors included **Brenham National Bank**, **Citizens State Bank**, **Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative** and **Baylor Scott & White Medical Center**, plus there were a dozen exhibitors and table sponsors.

Another Small Business Forum will be held in June 2019, and nominations will be sought in the spring for next year's Small Business of the Year awards. See photos from today's event on the Washington County Chamber's social media page: [www.facebook.com/washingtoncountychamber](http://www.facebook.com/washingtoncountychamber).



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