FEBRUARY 2012

Washington County Chamber of Commerce
Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Chamber Works

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BRENHAM, TEXAS

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Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union

Celebrating Traditions & Service

A packed crowd of nearly 600 people attended the Annual Banquet held by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Brenham Economic Development Foundation on January 31.

The theme was "Washington County: Celebrating Traditions and Service" and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson was the keynote speaker.

Joel Romo of the American Heart Association and member of the Chamber Board of Directors, was Master of Ceremonies. He personally introduced Commissioner Patterson and led the rest of the evening's program.

Thanks to all the members and guests who attended the 2012 Annual Banquet, and to the following headline sponsors for ensuring the success of the event:

Blue Bell Creameries
Bluebonnet Electric
Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge
Brenham Clinic
Germania Insurance
Van Dyke Rankin & Company

See **BANQUET,** Page 2

Chamber board director Joel Romo served as Master of Ceremonies at the banquet.

At the opening of the banquet, the Marine Corps Jr. ROTC from Brenham HS carry in the flags.

Keynote speaker Jerry Patterson thoroughly entertained the crowd with stories about characters from Texas' colorful past.

"BUSINESS AFTER HOURS"

WASHINGTON COUNTY'S FAVORITE NETWORKING EVENT

Hosted by:

Brenham National Bank & Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Association

2211 S. Day Street, Brenham

Thursday, March 1, 5-7 p.m.

Enjoy great **networking, delicious food** and **refreshments**
Bring plenty of business cards for great networking opportunities!
Free for Chamber members and all employees!

Beverage Sponsor: Mike Hopkins Distributing
Food Sponsor: Brenham Catering

Learn more about Brenham National Bank at www.bnbank.com
and Washington-On-The-Brazos State Park Association at www.birthplaceoftexas.com.

"Wake Up, Washington County!"

Networking Breakfast

Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:45 a.m.

Hosted by

New Beginnings Life Ministries

1016 E. Blue Bell Road, Brenham

Breakfast Sponsors:
George Bush Presidential Library & Museum
and
Republic Services

Free for Chamber members!

Come enjoy breakfast and a chance to network with other local businesses and organizations. This is a great way to inform others about your products and services and to learn about what's new in the community. Everyone gets a chance to give a 30-second commercial about their business/organization to the entire crowd! Be sure to bring plenty of business cards and brochures for sharing.
RSVP to (979) 836-3695 or jane@brenhamtexas.com.

Ribbon Cuttings

Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Steakhouse

Owner: Isidro Sanchez
2800 Highway 36 South, Brenham
Phone: 979-836-9508

Lone Star Counseling

Owner: Lee Gonzales
102 E Alamo Street, Suite 200B, Brenham
Phone: 979-830-8800

Republican Party of Washington County – New Headquarters

Chair: Helen Hink
2640 Hwy. 36 South
(Bluebonnet Shopping Center), Brenham
Phone: 979-830-8507

Banquet

(Continued from Page 1)

Prior to the banquet, the Bluebonnet Garden Club beautifully decorated all of the tables in the Fireman's Training Center with fresh greenery, magnolia leaves and pinecones. Brenham Anchor Club students played an important role in helping to set tables and serve hundreds of banquet guests, led by Judith Finke and Denise Kmiec.

Large plants decorated the stage, courtesy of Ellison's Greenhouses and Plants N Things. Special thanks go to Lete Phillips for chairing the Banquet Committee and overseeing all of the details.

After MC Joel Romo opened the program, Eddie Harrison led the invocation, the Marine Corps Junior ROTC from Brenham High School presented the colors, and Wesley Westbrook sang a stirring rendition of the National Anthem.

Atwood Kenjura and Nancy Shoup pause in front of the packed hall to accept the honor of being selected Man and Woman of the Year for 2011.

Commissioner Patterson was introduced by Joel Romo, who talked about how he graduated from St. Edward's University with Patterson's daughter Emily. Romo said he was always impressed by Patterson at the Capitol since he never has an entourage around him like most state officials. But then he quipped that's probably because people assume as the author of the concealed handgun legislation, Patterson probably has a pistol in his boot all the time.

Patterson then delivered a fascinating and often hilarious speech about Texas history and milestones from his own political career.

After the keynote presentation, the Chamber board chair for 2011, Cathy Boeker, thanked the retiring directors whose terms ended in December: Trey Hardy from Germania Insurance, LaVerne Krumrey from KTEX Radio, Joy Nelson from Brenham ISD and Lowell Ogle from City of Brenham.

EDF board chair for 2011 William Krueger thanked David Bockhorn from Bank of Brenham and Steve Haley from Moorman, Tate, Urquhart, Haley, Upchurch & Yates for their years of service on the board. He also thanked several partner organizations that work with the EDF, including the City of Brenham/BCDC, Washington County and Bluebonnet Electric.

In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Blue Blazers club, a special presentation was made by State Rep. Lois Kolkhorst. She praised the efforts of the many volunteers who have served over the years, and especially thanked Sue Muzzy who is the only founding member who is still active in the club today. Historic photos were shown in a slideshow, and the names of every volunteer who has ever

See **BANQUET,** Page 4

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER BLUE BLAZER OF THE MONTH

February 2012
Tammy Jaster

The Blue Blazers are a group of 15 volunteers who act as official greeters and hosts of our community. Their objectives include promoting Chamber programs and increasing membership, and conducting ribbon cuttings and special ceremonies for local businesses. The Chamber thanks these volunteers for their service and hospitality, and also their employers for allowing them the time to dedicate to the organization. A "Blue Blazer of the Month" is recognized at each club meeting for the highest total of achievements the prior month.

Blue Blazers

DOUG BAKER
City of Brenham

DR. HENRY BOEHM JR.
AMA Home Care and B&L Tire

JOLENE CURTIS
Texas AgFinance

JOYCE DICKSCHAT
Brenham National Bank

JOHANNA FATHEREE
RE/MAX Advantage

PAM GREEN
RE/MAX Advantage

EDDIE HARRISON
Individual Member

TAMMY JASTER
City of Brenham-
Blue Bell Aquatic Center

FLORENCE JULIAN
Blue Bell Creameries

BRICE MILLIORN
Edward Jones Investments

SUE MUZZY
Mike Hopkins Distributing Co.

LINDA PIPES
Individual Member

JULIE TIEMANN
Thrivent Financial

RANDY WEIDEMANN
Van Dyke Rankin & Company

DON WILHELM
Individual Member

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ONE STOP SERVICE COMPANY
www.bjelectricinc.com
Residential – Commercial
Electrical - Data Cabling
Bill Downs
Owner
TECL 22459
BUS: 1-866-926-6225
FAX: 1-979-826-0111
Email: billyd@bjelectricinc.com

Residential • Farm & Ranch • Commercial
RE/MAX
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: booc@remax.net
Web: www.RealtorBoo.com
MLS
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Welcome New Members

EDGE BRENHAM
Executive Director: Scott Bormann
P O Box 1243
Brenham, Texas 77834
Phone: 979-661-5357
scott.bormann@edgebrenham.org
www.edgebrenham.org
Non Profit Clubs & Organizations

JOSEPH & DANNA EDWARDS
605 Tison Street
Brenham, Texas 77833
Phone: 713-503-3987
jedwards7@sbcglobal.net
Individuals-Retired

LONE STAR COUNSELING, LLC
Owner: Lee Gonzales
102 E. Alamo, Suite 200B (Physical Address)
Brenham, Texas 77833
6304 Carnation Lane (Mailing Address)
Bleiblerville, Texas 78931
Phone: 979-830-8800
gonzaleslee440@yahoo.com
www.lonestarcounseling.org
Counseling Services

NU AREA
Owners: Tracy & John Bartlett
101 E. Commerce Street (Physical Address)
Brenham, Texas 77833
P O Box 582 (Mailing Address)
Brenham, Texas 77834
Phone: 979-530-2920
tbartlettrid@gmail.com
Interior Decorators & Designers

Renewing Members

(January 1-31)
Thanks to the following members for continuing your investment in the Chamber.
You are long-term "partners" in our mission to promote

Al Steinbach Electric — 24 years
The Allcorn House — 11 years
BABE'S Trucking Co. — 18 years
BJ Electric — 6 years
Blue Bell Creameries -
Presidential Level Member — 85 years
Dot Borchgardt,
Washington County Tax Assessor — 4 years
Brenham L-P Gas — 30 years
Brenham National Bank -
Presidential Level Member — 30 years
Brenham Veterinary Hospital — 27 years
Cannery Kitchen & Gift Shop — 1 year
Cape-Tex Painting — 4 years
Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Auction — 28 years
Chili's — 7 years
Citizens State Bank -
Presidential Level Member — 13 years
Cathy Cole - Heritage Texas Country Prop — 9 years
Collier Construction — 22 years
David Hermann Electric Co. — 22 years
Detering Brothers Investments — 30 years
Don's Appliance Service — 3 years
Downtown Art Gallery — 3 years
Edward Jones Investments - Billy Starnes — 12 years
Paul A. Ehlert — 12 years
Enterprise Products — 20 years
Eye Associates of Brazos Valley — 13 years
Arthur A. Geick — 28 years
Eddie E. & Margaret D. Harrison — 12 years
Haulright — 9 years
Herrmann International — 27 years
JC Penney Company — 27 years
JH Faske Company — 22 years
K & M Grocery — 12 years
Kinetics Gymnastics & Cheer — 6 years
Paul La Roche, III, DDS — 24 years
Lacina & Kenjura PC — 27 years
Legend Log Homes — 9 years
Legends Billiards — 15 years
Lifetime Learning — 5 years
Lowe's — 8 years
Lutherhill Ministries — 3 years
Maifest Association — 30 years
Market Realty — 22 years
Medi-Care Equipment Specialties, Inc. — 30 years
Mike Hopkins Distributing Company — 41 years
Moeller Electric Company — 27 years
Linda Niehuus-
Heritage Texas Country Properties — 4 years
O'Malley Engineers — 12 years
Jim M. Plummer, CPA — 14 years
Preservation Storage — 4 years
Quebe Farm — 6 years
Scott & White Hospital-Brenham -
Presidential Level Member — 28 years
Shepherd Law Firm — 3 years
Solutions In Sound — 4 years
Southern Flyer — 12 years
Tegeler Toyota — 21 years
Texas ENT & Allergy — 4 years
The Brenham House Bed & Breakfast — 5 years
Thielemann Construction & Stegent Plumbing — 27 years
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans — 25 years
Total Storage — 12 years
Leon Toubin — 22 years
Unity Theatre — 17 years
Volare Italian Restaurant — 14 years
Waldie's Pharmacy — 28 years
Washington County Abstract Company — 47 years
Washington County Habitat for Humanity — 3 years
Wellmann Insurance Agency — 27 years
Westwood Travel Center — 12 years
Woltmann's Welding & Fabricating — 12 years

Chamber News & Notes

BUSINESS GROWTH Workshop

Feb. 29 from 2-4 p.m.
Blinn Student Center
- Conference Room

With long work hours and financial pressure, many small business owners aren't sure where to turn when things become challenging.

"The Growth Coach," Becky Smith, offers quarterly group workshops as well as one-on-one coaching for business owners looking for direction, support and a better work-life balance.

In this workshop, Becky will focus on Business Growth, covering all of the following topics:

* Allocation of Time - not enough time to do everything effectively that we need to in order to be successful. Confusing activity with accomplishment; working on low-value "stuff"; never slowing down to think & plan.

* Business Growth- having the right strategies in place to generate enough "Qualified Leads" and converting them to "Paying Clients."

* People Stuff- Finding and Keeping Good People, Improving Performance, Creating a Culture of Accountability, Using Metrics to improve performance.

* Cash Flow- How do I grow the top line revenues? How do I manage my costs? How do I keep more of the money I make?

The cost to register for Washington County Chamber members is $10 per person ($20 for non-members). Please call (979) 836-3695 to register by Feb. 24.

Keep Washington County Beautiful Trash Pick-Up Day

Feb. 18 from 8-11 a.m.

Roadside clean-ups will be held at two locations on Saturday, Feb. 18, starting at 8:00 a.m. The locations are on Salem Road near Hwy. 36, and also on Hwy. 36 South near the county line.

Arrive ready with gloves and you will be given a safety vest and trash picker tool. Don't forget sunscreen and a hat, plus wear comfortable work shoes that can get a little dirty.

There will be refreshments and awards afterward. Awards for "Most Unique Item Found" and other fun finds will be given.

Call Jeff Sadler for more information at (214) 649-9152, or visit online: www.KWCBTx.org.

See **NEWS & NOTES,** Page 7

Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...

Blue Bell · Blinn College Proven. · Bluebonnet Electric · Brenham Clinic · Brenham National Bank · Chase · Citizens State Bank · Design II · Edward Jones Investments · Emerson Process Management · Germania Insurance · H-E-B · Metropolitan Water Company, L.P. · MIC Group Master Manufacturer · RE/MAX Advantage · Republic Services, Inc. · Scott & White Hospital - Brenham · Texas Commercial Waste · Van Dyke Rankin Insurance · Wells Fargo

Banquet

(Continued from Page 2)

served in the club was in every guest's program.

The special presentation was soon followed by the annual Blue Blazer of the Year award announcement. For 2011, it was won by Sue Muzzy, once again ,for her outstanding dedication to the Chamber mission and club accomplishments.

Nancy Shoup won the 2011 Woman of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Award. She was introduced by last year's winner, Joycine Hanath. In her introduction, Hanath described all of Shoup's many volunteer activities and praised all of the contributions she has made to numerous organizations in Washington County.

Clarence Gerke did the introduction of the 2011 Man of the Year, and award-winner Atwood Kenjura was stunned and surprised. Kenjura made a few comments about the great people he's been blessed to work with in Washington County. He credited his family and expressed gratitude for being able to serve Blinn College for so many years.

"The success of the banquet was the result of the time and hard work of many people," said Lete Phillips, chairwoman of the event and past member of the Chamber Board of Directors.

"It's an enormous team effort, and the result is a truly enjoyable event," said Page Michel, president. "Every one of the volunteers who helped to plan and set up had a role in the success of the program," said Jane Hinze, Member Services Manager.

Plans for next year's banquet are already underway. Any members who have comments or suggestions for future events are encouraged to call the Chamber at 836-3695 or write to info@brenhamtexas.com.

2011 Chamber chair Cathy Boeker (far left) thanked the four retiring directors from the Chamber Board in 2011: from left, Trey Hardy from Germania Insurance, LaVerne Krumrey from KTEX Radio, Joy Nelson from Brenham ISD and Lowell Ogle from City of Brenham.

Current president of the Blue Blazers Pam Green (second from right) and Chamber Member Services Manager Jane Hinze (far right) presented the 2011 club officers with appreciation plaques: from left, Joyce Dickschat from Brenham National Bank, Recording Secretary and Tammy Jaster from City of Brenham, Points Secretary.

Outgoing Chamber chairwoman Cathy Boeker (center) presented the 2011 executive officers with plaques in appreciation: from left, Mike Baker, Secretary; Trey Hardy, Treasurer; Brice Milliorn, First Vice Chair; Kurt Podeszwa, Second Vice Chair; and Julie Renken, Immediate Past Chair.

Chamber Member Services Manager Jane Hinze (right) gave recognition plaques to Doug Baker from City of Brenham (left) and Coy Fontenot from Kruse Village (center), two Blue Blazers who retired from the club in 2011.

State Rep. Lois Kolkhorst presented a special program recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Blue Blazers club.

Brenham's own Wesley Westbrook performed the National Anthem to open the banquet program.

EDF board chairman William Krueger (left) presented David Bockhorn (center) and Steve Haley (right) with recognition plaques for their years of service on the board.

The Honorable Eddie Harrison gave the invocation to a crowd of nearly 600 guests at the Annual Banquet.

Members of the Bluebonnet Garden Club generously donated their time and fresh greenery to decorate all the tables for the banquet event.

The 2011 Blue Blazer of the Year award was announced, and Sue Muzzy (center) was the winner for her outstanding club accomplishments.

Leadership at the Local & State Level

The Washington County Leadership class attended two very timely sessions during January. The 2012 Leadership Class learned about and experienced both Local and State Government.

The January 12 session was packed full of Local Government information. The class started with a tour of the Blue Bell Aquatic Center. Facilitators were Wesley Brinkmeyer of Bluebonnet Electric (LWC Class of 2007) and Liz Hopkins of Mike Hopkins Distributing & Stella Designs and Solutions (LWC Class of 2011).

The session continued with a tour led by Dane Rau (LWC Class of 2004) of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant where the group learned more about the process of wastewater treatment than anyone ever wanted to know! The class then traveled to City Hall for one-on-one time with Mayor Milton Tate, City Manager Terry Roberts and City Councilman Keith Herring. The group then traveled to the Brenham Municipal Airport and had a wonderful lunch at the 50's-style Southern Flyer Cafe.

After lunch, everyone trekked back to the Washington County Courthouse where they received an informative tour from Assistant Washington County Attorney Eric Berg. After the tour, Eric led the group to the Commissioners Court where they had a chance to ask questions of the commissioners from each precinct; Zeb Heckmann, Luther Hueske, Kirk Hanath and Joy Fuchs. The day ended with a guided tour and presentation at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center.

Next on January 24, the Leadership group traveled to Austin for the State Government session. The first activity was a guided tour of the State Capitol, the gallery of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Chamber.

District 13 Representative Lois Kolkhorst (LWC Class of 1995) joined the class in a Public Hearing room for questions and answers. She explained the different roles of state legislators, and possible scenarios that might occur during a public hearing. Leadership members were reminded that our state Senators and Representatives listen to their constituents and encouraged everyone to contact her office at any time with concerns.

The class also heard from Lisa Craven, Chief of Staff for District 18 Senator Glen Hegar. Lisa talked with the class regarding current issues, and spent extra time answering questions.

Following lunch in the Capitol Grill, the class walked to the Texas Supreme Court. They received a rare chance to sit in the court and had a personal meeting with Justice Eva Guzman. Guzman explained what steps she took in her life to get to her current position. She also mentioned the many different types of leaders that she has come in contact with, and how they influenced her to make better decisions and become a better judge herself.

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.

The LWC class listens as Judge McCune and the county commissioners discuss current obstacles and challenges.

Dane Rau explains how "good bugs" are introduced in to the wastewater treatment system.

Thank you to Local Government Day Facilitators, Wesley Brinkmeyer and Liz Hopkins!

The class listens intently as Mayor Milton Tate gives a brief overview of what a city council meeting entails.

The Leadership Class of 2012 inside the Brenham City Council Chambers.

Rep. Kolkhorst speaks to the group in a public hearing room in the Capital building in Austin.

A guided tour of the House of Representatives proved to be very educational for the group.

Lisa Craven fills them in on the day-to-day happenings in Senator Glen Hegar's office.

Justice Eva Guzman provided the group with great insight about what leadership means to her.

Tourism News

Private Concert with James Dick

On Saturday, Feb. 11, experience a private concert by James Dick, founder of Round Top Festival Institute and world-renowned pianist. Relish a five-course dinner prepared by the acclaimed chefs of Festival Hill and try the wine pairings by Pleasant Hill Winery.

The evening's schedule includes at 6:30 p.m.reception hosted by Pleasant Hill Winery. Then at 7:30 p.m., join James Dick on the Europeanesque stage for a private concert in the Festival Hill Concert Hall. At 8 p.m., enjoy dinner with James Dick and at 9 p.m., dessert and conversation. Seating is limited for this rare opportunity. For details, call 979-24-3129 or visit www.FestivalHill.org.

Wine & Chocolate Trail

The Wine & Chocolate Trail is a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day or just enjoy wine and chocolate with a friend. Held February 11 & 12, ticket holders will sample two wines paired with a unique chocolate dish at each Bluebonnet Trail winery.

Visit these local Wineries: Pleasant Hill Winery at 1441 Salem Rd., Brenham, Saddlehorn Winery at 958 FM 1948, Burton, and Windy Winery at4232 Clover Rd.. More details are online at www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com.

Texas Independence Day Celebration

The 176th anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence will be recognized during a free two-day festival March 3-4 at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. The festival will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday and provide endless opportunities for family-oriented activities. All admission fees will be waived during the celebration weekend!

Throughout the two-day celebration, the 293-acre park along the Brazos River will be transported back to the time when Texas was a sovereign nation. Re-enactors in period clothing and members of the Texas Army, along with skilled craftsmen and talented musicians, will fill the park as Texas commemorates its inception. In addition, food vendors selling a variety of festival foods will be on site. For details, call 936-878-2214 or visit www.BirthplaceOfTexas.com

Reaching the Traveler

One of several travel shows the CVB participates in annually is the AAA Houston show which draws some 400-plus travelers to shop a variety of travel offerings. While the January show presented both national and international destinations, visitors were also pleased to have local offerings to consider for travel plans.

Later this spring, the CVB will participate in the annual Texas Travel Counselors Conference "Travel Fair," a gathering of representatives from all the Tourism Information Centers around the state. This show provides a way for us to say "Thank you" to all the folks who distribute Brenham/Washington County information year-round and send visitors our way.

In the fall, Lackland Air Force Base offers a travel show for both active and retired military personnel in San Antonio. The CVB also participates in a co-op program to gain representation at the annual American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) convention, slated for New Orleans in 2012.

Each of these venues provides an opportunity to promote our wonderful Brenham and Washington County area to visitors on regional and national levels.

Everything Weddings Expo

The 2nd Annual Everything Weddings Expo held at Fireman's Training Center on Jan. 29 was a roaring success. Over 90 brides and a total of 550 attendees enjoyed a fashion show, wonderful prizes, cake dive and more. According to Jennifer Beaudet of Pure Elegance, host of the show, 62 vendors participated this year and 45 had booths for the brides to experience local businesses catering to the wedding market.

Jennifer Hermann and Mary Leonard stand ready to chat with brides and their entourages in the Hermann Furniture booth at the Everything Weddings Expo.

Traveling to Grapevine

Twenty-nine Convention & Visitor Bureaus, including ours, pooled resources to welcome some 3,300 bus tour operators to the 2012 American Bus Association (ABA) conference in Grapevine in early January.

The "Team Texas" group also included several Chambers of Commerce and city organizations from around the state, as well as corporate sponsors such as American Airlines, Cowboys Stadium and the Gaylord Texan Resort.

Team Texas staffed a huge welcome booth next to the attendee registration area, filling it with iconic Texas images and made-in-Texas products to sample, including Dr. Pepper, specialty popcorn, Peanut Patties, sugar cookies that spelled the name Plano, and more.

The Washington County Chamber is a Proud Member of ...

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

Thanks to the support of Blue Bell Creameries, the Washington County CVB staff served Homemade Vanilla ice cream cups while the Bryan/College Station CVB provided Messina Hof port wine chocolate sauce topping.

Special events for the visiting tour operators included a night on the floor of Cowboys Stadium, complete with a welcome from Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

Team Texas offers co-op participation opportunities for several national tourism-related events throughout each year, and provides economical levels of participation that allow small CVBs such as Washington County to participate alongside much larger organizations.

Pattie Sears, director of Tourism Sales & Service for the Bryan/College Station CVB, and Lu Hollander and Seneca McAdams are ready to serve Blue Bell ice cream and chocolate sauce to ABA attendees. The large Texas Welcome Booth can be seen in the background.

First Quarter Update

For the first quarter of the CVB's fiscal year (Oct.-Dec.), we're happy to report that the list of publicity garnered is lengthy. From features about various sports activities to descriptions of Blue Bell tours to the 135th anniversary of Hermann Furniture, the variety of coverage about Brenham and Washington County in various print and online outlets was extensive.

See **TOURISM,** Page 7

Working for YOU!

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

WALK-IN'S

Visitor Center	*HQ Building*
January 2012 — 578	January 2012 — 791

WEBSITE
www.BrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors	*Total Pages*
January 2012 — 8,887	January 2012 — 21,449

WEBSITE
www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors	*Total Pages*
January 2012 — 2,946	January 2012 — 3,468

Tourism

(Continued from Page 6)

This effort is just one aspect of the overall focus of the Convention & Visitors Bureau to encourage visitors to come to the area. Print advertising is also a tool and includes full-page co-op advertising opportunities in publications like *Texas Highways, Austin American-Statesman* and Houston Rodeo Program. These co-op programs allow local tourism partners to participate in widely circulated publications for minimal cost. In addition, promotions of the area appear on such Internet sites as TourTexas.com, Tripadviser.com, MyFox26 TV, and others.

One of the ongoing success stories is the increase in weddings held in Washington County, which is ideally located between Houston and Austin and counts San Antonio and Dallas/Fort Worth as viable wedding markets as well. The good thing about weddings is they take place regardless of weather or other influences. Businesses that service the wedding market have indicated significant increases in weddings being booked while the CVB reports that distribution of Wedding Planners more than doubled from the previous year.

Some of the interesting groups that visited Washington County in the past three months include the Glidden Car Tour (an advance trip to bring their 2012 group gathering to the area), Mississippi Master Gardeners, Franklin Garden Club and the TCU Golden Frogs retirees. In addition, frequent visits by Houston Precinct buses bring visitors for the day and multiple sports tournaments also contribute to the overall visitor impact.

An additional promotional tool is the 2012 Visitor Guide available to local businesses. The CVB has produced 140,000 for distribution to Texas Travel Information Centers statewide, in brochure racks located in hotel lobbies and business buildings in major state metropolitan areas, as well as mailed to fulfill individual requests. The Guide is also available online at www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com and at the Washington County Chamber and the downtown Visitor Center.

News & Notes

(Continued from Page 3)

Future trash pick-up days in 2012 are targeted for April 14, Sept. 8 and November 10. Please help boost community pride by helping to Keep Washington County Beautiful.

If you cannot help on trash pick-up days, you can still show your support by becoming a member and paying nominal dues. Membership information can also be found on the website. Thank you!

Brenham and Washington County Employers:

The Brenham Economic Development Foundation has formed a Workforce Development Task Force with the A.W. Hodde Jr. Technical Education Center at Blinn College, Brenham ISD–Career & Technical Education Department and Burton ISD to help graduating students find jobs by connecting them with local employers and providing them with the necessary training they need to become a productive asset to the local workforce.

We have sent out surveys to all graduating seniors at Brenham and Burton high schools to determine their career interests. We now need help from all local businesses to see who is hiring currently or in the near future so that we can connect students with those businesses.

If you are planning on hiring soon, or if you know of someone who is, please contact Clint Kolby with the Brenham Economic Development Foundation at clint@brenhamtexas.com.

Please let us know by March 1st and provide the name of your business, how many employees you plan on hiring, what type of positions you want to fill, and your contact information.

Thank you from the Workforce Development Task Force.

Hot Deals Online!

A great tool is the "Hot Deals" feature on the Chamber website. These are designed to promote special offers provided by member businesses and organizations.

The Hot Deal must promote something that is not available on a year-round basis, such as a sale or discount price on a product or service, an open house event, a free tour, free refreshments, etc.

The offer may only be promoted for a limited time. Therefore, an expiration date must be included on the Hot Deal. The maximum length of time for a Hot Deal is 3 months (12 weeks). Call if we can help you set up a Hot Deal!

Calendar

(Continued from Page 8)

March 3
Professional Development Workshop for Child Care & School Personnel
Recognizing, reporting and preventing child abuse, at Brenham Community Ed building, 1301 S. Market Street, Brenham, cost $25 (979-277-3895, www.brenhamcommunityed.com).

Yonder Way Farm Day
Visit the Farm Store at Yonder Way Farm for grass-fed beef, whole & half calves, pastured pork, eggs and poultry, 1st Saturday of the month, 5500 Hwy 105, Brenham, contact for fees (979-530-4444, www.yonderwayfarm.com).

Community CPR Class
Learn CPR from Washington County EMS, $25, 8:30am-12pm, new EMS station 1875 Hwy 290 W., Brenham, call ahead (979-277-6267).

March 3-4
Texas Independence Day Celebration
Celebrate 176 years of Texas Independence with historical re-enactors, period craft demonstrations, military encampments and Texas tunes, free admission, 10am-5pm, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site (936-878-2214, www.birithplaceoftexas.com).

March 3
Farmers & Artisans Market
8am-1pm, first Saturday of the month, free, historic Burton Railroad Depot, 507 N. Railroad St., Burton.

March 10
8th Annual International Guitar Festival
Performances at 1:30pm, 4pm, and 8pm at Festival Hill Concert Hall, 248 Jaster Rd., Round Top, call for admission and reservations (979-249-3129, www.festivalhill.org).

March 12-16
SPRING BREAK

March 16-17
17th Annual Herbal Forum
"Roses are Herbs, too!," 2 days of presentations, workshops and shopping, Festival Hill, 248 Jaster Rd., Round Top (979-249-3129, www.festivalhill.org).

March 17
Simply the Signers
Learn about the exciting and colorful men who established Texas as an independent republic, 11am-6pm, $5/adults, $3/students, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site (936-878-2214, x 224, www.birthplaceoftexas.com).

March 22 – April 1
Unity Theatre presents "Last Train to Nibroc"
In December 1940 on an eastbound train, May shares her seat with a charming young flyer named Raleigh, and so begins a hesitant and improbable romance between two different people whose casual acquaintance leads to something true and lasting, Thu 7:30pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sun 4pm, Unity Theatre, 300 Church St., Downtown Brenham (979-830-8358, www.unitybrenham.org).

March 23
Ribbon Cutting: W.J. Rankin Agricultural Complex at Blinn
1409 Old Mill Creek Rd, Brenham, 10:30 a.m.

March 24
Head for the Hills Bike Ride
Hosted by Washington County Rotary Club, details at www.WCrotaryclub.org.

March 25
Spring Evening at the Mansion
Presenting the 2012 Senior Belles, 6-10pm at Giddings Stone Mansion, 2203 Century Circle, Brenham, benefiting The Heritage Society of Washington County.

March 31-April 7
La Bahia Antiques Show & Sale
A variety of select dealers from across the country with 80+ booths, food and more, 8am-6pm thru April 6th, then 8am-4pm on April 7. Free admission and parking, La Bahia Turn Verein, just west of Burton on TX 237 (979-289-2684, www.labahiaantiques.com).

March 31
Camp For All Hilltop Bike Ride
Find all details at www.CampForAll.org.

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.

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

What's Happening in February

Feb 9-26
Unity Theatre presents
"Billy Bishop Goes to War"
The story of the greatest allied ace of the "Great War," Billy tells his own story with music and poignancy about a failing student, accident prone cavalryman and poor pilot who finds glory in the sky and becomes the first Canadian to receive the Military Cross, the Victoria Cross and Distinguished Service Medal. Performances Thu 7:30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, and Sun 4pm, Unity Theatre, 300 Church St., Downtown Brenham (979-830-8358 or www.unitybrenham.org).

Feb 9
Valentine's Day Library
Fundraiser Concert
The Art of the American Song with Dick Smith & Friends, 2pm, $20, Round Top Festival-Institute (979-249-3129, www.festivalhill.org).

Feb 10, 17, 24
Nathan's BBQ Live Music Fridays
Live music with Sam & Allison, 6-9pm, free, Nathan's BBQ, 1307 Prairie Lea St., Brenham (cmurski@nathansbbq.net).

Live Music at Pig and Whistle
Gene Hackemack performs every Friday at Pig and Whistle of Burton, 12607 W. Washington (979-289-2319, www.pigandwhistleofburtontexas.com).

Feb 11
Stamp It Up for Valentine's Day
Make a homemade Valentine card or sweet treat, for parents and children 4 years and up, 10am-12pm, $10/person, Blue Bell Aquatic Center (tjaster@ci.brenham.tx.us).

Blinn College
Phi Theta Kappa Reunion
Reunion for Phi Theta Kappa, 6-10pm, $35, Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center, 1303 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham (gvierus@blinn.edu).

Private Piano Concert by James Dick
A 5-course dinner from the acclaimed chefs of Festival Hill, wine pairing from Pleasant Hill Vineyards, and concert from James Dick, limited seating, $150, 6:30-9pm, Round Top Festival Institute (979-249-3129, www.festivalhill.org).

Feb 11-12
Beasts of Burden
See draught animals work a field to prepare it for planting, using a plow, cultivator and harrow of 1850s Texas, 10am-4:30pm, $5 adults, $3 students, State Park pass holders free, Barrington Living History Farm, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Site (936-878-2214 x 246, www.birthplaceoftexas.com).

Wine & Chocolate Trail
Visit all three local wineries for a wonderful Valentine's weekend experience, more details at www.visitbrenhamtexas.com.

Feb 13
Ribbon Cutting:
Philips Veterinary Clinic
Visit Dr. Helen Philips new location at 5375 Hwy. 290 East, 1:00 p.m.

Feb 13-25
Winedale Annual Quilt Exhibit
Features historic quilts dating to the 1700s, part of the Winedale Quilt Collection, free, Winedale Historical Complex, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top (Winedale@austin.utexas.edu, www.cah.utexas.edu).

Feb 14
Parents Night Out
Swimming, arts 'n crafts, games, music, food, study time, ages 5 years and up, 4-10pm, $20/one child, $35/two, Blue Bell Aquatic Center (tjaster@ci.brenham.tx.us).

Feb 15
Pet Wellness Wednesday
Specials on select products and services, discounts on vaccinations, 3rd Weds of every month, call for appointment or drop-off, 8am-5pm, Creekside Veterinary Service (979-836-6519).

CHL Class
Get your concealed handgun license or renewal at the Salem Fire Department, 4:45-9:30pm, range will be open Thurs 2-5pm, 4601 FM 390 East (979-836-0986).

Feb 16
Chamber Networking Breakfast
Starts at 7:45am, hosted at New Beginnings Life Ministries, 1106. E. Blue Bell Road, Brenham.

YPO Cocktail Social
Young Professionals of Washington County monthly cocktail social/happy hour, 5:30-7:30pm, free snacks, cash bar, hosted at Shooters Saloon on South Market Street (youngpros@brenhamtexas.com).

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry
Food and music every 3rd Thursday of the month, food 6pm, show 7:30pm, $5 admission benefits Hospice, Silver Wings Ballroom, 4100 Hwy 105, Brenham (979-836-4347).

Feb 17
Car Seat Distribution Class
A one-hour class to learn how to install a car seat and ensure your child is properly restrained, 2-3pm, call Loretta or Bryan at Washington County EMS (979-277-6267).

Feb 18
Keep Washington County Beautiful
Spring trash pick-up day on Salem Road and Hwy. 36 at south county line, 8am – 10am, refreshments and awards afterward, more info at www.facebook.com/KWCBTexas and www.KWCBTx.org,

Concert at Buffalo Creek Winery
The Rankin Twins live at Buffalo Creek, 4-11pm, concert starts 8pm, Buffalo Creek Bellville, 10827 Hwy 36 S., between Bellville and Sealy (979-865-0702, buffalocreekwinerytx@gmail.com).

Feb 20
Blood Drive
Semi-annual blood drive hosted by Blinn College and St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, 9am-4:30pm, Blinn College Student Center, free t-shirt/refreshments, walk-ins welcome or call for appt (979-830-4181, gvierus@blinn.edu).

Feb 21
Monthly Grief Luncheon
Join others who have experienced the death of a loved one, learn healthy grieving methods, share how grief affects you and what helps during this monthly pot-luck luncheon, bring a covered dish, beverages provided, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 11am-1pm, free, please RSVP (979-277-9525, www.hospicebrazosvalley.org).

Feb 22-25
Fortnightly Club Annual
Used Book Sale
Thousands of used books, CDs and movies for sale, benefits the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library, 9am-6pm daily, $10 on Weds 9am-2pm, $1 Friday and Saturday, free parking, Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham (979-421-6252).

Feb 23-26
Drama Performance at Blinn
"God of Carnage" is a dark comedy with two sets of parents attempting to resolve a conflict when one child hits another, and as the evening goes on, each parent becomes increasingly childish, performances Thurs, Fri & Sat at 7pm, Sunday matinee 2pm, O'Donnell Performing Arts Center, Blinn College (979-830-4024, www.blinn.edu/finearts).

Feb 23
Hospitality in Bloom
Bluebonnet Garden Club's annual flower show and home tour, followed by lunch at the Sycamore House, $15, 10am-2pm (bbgc@myalpha1.net).

Feb 25
James Dick Piano Recital
Solo recital, 3pm, $25 adults, $10 students, Festival Hill (979-249-3129, www.festivalhill.org).

Quilt Study and Exhibit
Lone Star Quilt Study Group will discuss sack quilts in conjunction with the exhibit "Making Do with Little: Cotton Sacks and Cotton Sack Quilts," 11am-4pm, $20, space limited, register by 2/15, Winedale Historical Complex, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top (512-847-8037, kittylovesblue@hotmail.com).

Feb 29
Business Growth Workshop
From 2-4pm in Blinn Student Center, $10 members ($20 non-members), register by Feb 24.

A few March highlights…

March 2
First Baptist Church School
"Texas Celebration"
Celebrate and support the school, BBQ dinner, live and silent auctions, kids games, country store, costume contest, tickets $8, at Wash. Co Fairgrounds, 5-7pm (979-836-3611)

5th Annual Crawfish Boil
Burton Friends & Neighbors All-You-Can-Eat Crawfish Boil, 6-10pm, $30/person, $400/table for 8, Burton Community Center (979-451-9138, jane@brenhamtexas.com).

See **CALENDAR,** Page 7

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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