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*Boys & Girls Club of  
Washington County*

## Chamber/EDF Annual Banquet to be held on February 2, 2023

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Foundation of Brenham have announced the date of their upcoming Annual Banquet and the featured speaker. The banquet will be held on Thursday, February 2, at Fireman's Training Center in Brenham. The keynote speaker will be Rick Figueroa, a managing partner at Patron Partners, LLC, a wealth management firm. (Rick Figueroa photo attached)

Rick has been providing investment strategies and solutions for over 25 years with a client-centric, holistic approach designed to understand each client's unique values and goals. In addition to receiving a B.B.A. in Accounting and a Master of Agriculture in Land Economics & Real Estate at Texas A&M University, Rick also earned numerous certifications, including Certified Public Accountant (CPA) & Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®). In 2007, Merrill Lynch recognized Rick with the Leadership in Diversity & Inclusion Award and the Greater Houston Complex Values Award.

Rick is a revered community leader and public speaker who is actively involved on numerous councils and boards including the National Rifle Association Board of Directors, National Christian Foundation-Houston, Memorial Hermann Health System Board of Directors, and Kingdom Advisors Champions. He is past president of the Downtown Houston Kiwanis Club, past director on the Young Life Hispanic National Committee, past council member of the International Leadership Institute, past board member of the American Leadership Forum Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter, past President's Advisory Board member of KSBH Houston Christian Radio, past member of the Escape Family Resource Center Executive Committee, past member of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Houston CPA Society.

In 2008, Governor Rick Perry appointed Rick to the Texas Judicial Council. In 2016, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Rick to serve on the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation and in 2019 Governor Abbott appointed him to serve as its chairman. In 2016, Rick served as a member of the National Hispanic Coalition for the Trump-Pence Campaign and in 2020 he served on the Trump Pence Campaign's Latinos for Trump advisory board. During the Trump administration, he served on the Hispanic Advisory Council for the President of the United States.

In all areas of life Rick endeavors to establish meaningful lifelong relationships. Rick enjoys traveling with his family, playing golf, spending time on his ranch and entertaining family and friends. Rick and his wife, Laura have four children: two daughters and two sons and are actively involved with their church, Champion Fellowship in Brenham, Texas.

Chairman Circle sponsors of the banquet include Bank of Brenham, Baylor Scott & White Health, Blinn College District,

Blue Bell Creameries, Brenham Abstract & Title Company, Brenham National Bank, BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings, Citizens State Bank, City of Brenham, Corrosion Resistant Alloys, Germania Insurance, Texas Vein & Wellness Institute, and Van Dyke Rankin & Company.

"We are very grateful to these sponsors," said Jamie Rankin, Chamber president, "They will enable us to host a great event for the community, plus they join in applauding the efforts of the volunteer leaders and citizens who will be recognized."

At the banquet, the Washington County Chamber will recognize four directors who have ended a three-year term of service on the board: Susan Cates, Brenham/Washington County Economic Development; Michelle Panko, Barking Ranch Pet Resort; Roger Ross, Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited; and Jeffrey Sadler, BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings. Outgoing Chair Dr. John Turner of Blinn College will also be recognized for his leadership in 2022.

The Brenham Economic Development Foundation will recognize one outgoing director: Catherine Kenjura, of The Kenjura Law Firm, for nine years of service on the board.

Other highlights of the evening will be the announcement of the Man and Woman of the Year, the Business of the Year awards, and the Blue Blazer of the Year. New, this year, will be the announcement of the Non-Profit of the Year.

Tickets for the banquet are now on sale at the Washington County Chamber, located at 314 S. Austin Street in Brenham. Individual tickets are \$50 per person and will be on sale until January 24. Reserved tables for eight people are also available. Contact the Washington County Chamber at 979-836-3695 or [info@brenhamtexas.com](mailto:info@brenhamtexas.com).



**Rick Figueroa, a managing partner at Patron Partners, LLC**

# Leadership and Law Enforcement

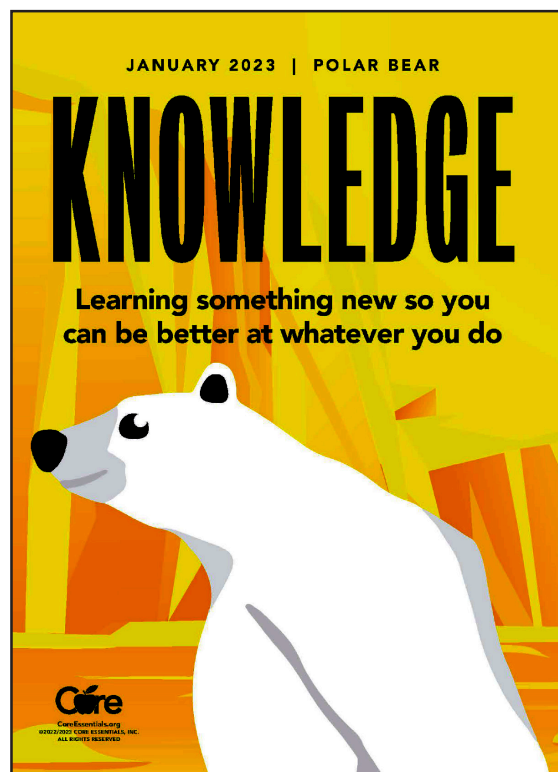
The December session of the Leadership Washington County program introduced the group to local public safety officials. The session was held at the City of Brenham Police Department.

The class heard from local law enforcement leaders, including District Attorney Julie Renken (LWC Class of 2001); Kacie Murphey, Assistant County Attorney; and officers from the Brenham Police Department and Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.

The class also participated in breakout sessions, including a 'Shoot, Don't Shoot' scenario, information from the narcotics squad and a presentation on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE).

When asked about the session, James Llewellyn of Citizens State Bank commented, "I felt like I know them and the protective services they provide, much better through this class and have a greater desire to support them and their efforts in the community. It has also helped me understand more deeply the resources they provide to help keep me and others in the community safe."

The program runs from August to May each year. The next class will form in July 2023. Those interested are encouraged to call the Chamber office at (979) 836-3695. Details are posted on [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com). Contact Jane Hinze at [jane@brenhamtexas.com](mailto:jane@brenhamtexas.com) for more information



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



WE PROUDLY SUPPORT  
BRENHAM ISD AND BURTON ISD

A Partner for P.E.A.C.E. (Public Education Ambassador for Community Engagement) is encouraged to share the monthly value and promote that value within the company so that possible employees and customers will see that you also support public education. It is in hopes that the adults who see these values at their workplace will share with the children in their lives who are also seeing this at school. These Core Essential Values are taught at both Brenham and Burton ISDs.

Thank you to these Partners for P.E.A.C.E. who have signed up so far to continue to make 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 • Blue Bell Creameries  
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County • Brand It Graphix • Brenham National Bank  
Brenham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center • Brenham Veterinary Hospital • Citizens State Bank  
Floyd's Wine Lounge • Germania Insurance • Kruse Village • Schleider Furniture & Mattress Company  
Seidel Schroeder • Thielemann Construction Co., L.P. & Stegent Thielemann Plumbing  
Unity Theatre • Washington County Landscapes

# Renewals

## December 2022

|                                                |          |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|
| TEXAS RANCH LIFE                               | 23 Years |
| LAS FUENTES MEXICAN RESTAURANT                 | 18 years |
| BRAZOS BED & BREAKFAST                         | 17 Years |
| J HILL PROPERTIES-JANE HILL                    | 15 Years |
| BRAUNER, TAMMY                                 |          |
| WASHINGTON COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK               | 10 Years |
| ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL                | 10 Tears |
| NOBLE LIVING STUDIOS                           | 8 Years  |
| RAMZINSKI, KATE-LCRA REPRESENTATIVE            | 8 Years  |
| NEXTLINK INTERNET                              | 3 Years  |
| TEXWORX                                        | 3 Years  |
| BREHAM MOBILITY, LLC                           | 2 Years  |
| RE/MAX BLUEBONNET PROPERTIES<br>MIKE SCHROEDER | 2 Years  |
| TOYS FOR TOTS WASHINGTON COUNTY                | 2 Years  |

**MAKE AN IMPACT  
IN 2023!**

**Shop Local  
Eat Local  
Drink Local  
Play Local  
Stay Local**

*Let's do this!*

**Since 1917** Washington County Chamber  
BrenhamTexas.com

*Jamie Rankin .....President*  
*Jane Hinze.....Member Services Manager*  
*Shae Janner.....Business Programs Manager*  
*Dawn Konieczny.....Communications Coordinator*  
*Sarah Hansen.....Financial Coordinator*



## Save the Date

**Washington County  
Day at the Capitol  
Austin, Texas**

**Monday, February 27, 2023**

TECL 22459

**Edward Jones®**

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**Ray L Weiss, CLU®, FIC**  
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ray.weiss@thrivent.com  
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*Million Dollar Round Table Top of the Table*

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**GROUP BUYING POWER**

Chamber members can now get major savings on credit card payment processing. Learn about our new member benefit program.

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

# Leadership explores Health Care



Sami Rahman, Director of Simulations at Blinn College, shows Ashlie Agee an infant mannequin that is used in the nursing lab.

man, Director of Simulations and Clinical Labs, met with the class and took them on a tour of the nursing area of the facility. The simulation laboratories include three high-fidelity simulation rooms where Blinn faculty can use computerized simulators to provide a real-to-life patient care experience.

The class then traveled to Baylor Scott & White in Brenham. There, they heard from Emilie Kmiec, Director of Nursing at Hospice Brazos Valley, a non-profit hospice provider that serves 17 counties. Blake Barnes (LWC Class of 2021), Vice President of Operations at Baylor Scott & White in Brenham, and other BSWH Staff gave an overview about services and medical advancements here locally.

When asked about this session, James Llewellyn of Citizens State Bank replied, "The changes and improvements made with Baylor, Scott & White gave me renewed hope and faith in them as true Healthcare Providers in Brenham! And Blinn's innovation building and the education that they provide students was an impressive eye-opener!"

The January session of Leadership Washington County focused on Health Care and allowed the class to learn more about the industry first-hand.

The day began at the Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation (STEI) building on the Blinn College Campus in Brenham. Sami Rah-



Kyle Branham checks a "patient's" vitals in the lab.

LEADERSHIP Continued on page 6

*Thank you to our 2023 Chairman's Circle members...*



*Thank you to our 2023 Presidential Level members...*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursdays

## Thirsty Thursdays Tacos & Trivia

The taproom is open from 3-9pm on Thursdays with trivia from 6pm to close. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Thursday - Saturday

## Music at Grapevine on Main

Music from 6-9pm on the deck under the trees, with an always present cool breeze. Wagyu burgers, Artisan thin-crust pizzas, charcuterie boards and other light bite menu items available. 5120 Main St., Chappell Hill.

Thursdays - Sundays

## Chapelton Vineyards Wine Tastings & Tours

Taste & Tour the newest winery in Washington County. Open Friday-Sunday 11am-5pm. Reservations recommended, but not required. Tour included in purchase of a tasting flight. Charcuterie & cheese plates available for purchase; 14858 Whitman Rd., Washington (chapeltonvineyards.com).

Fridays

## Friday Vibes

Live music, beer, and bites at Brazos Valley Brewery. Taproom is open from noon to 10pm every Friday. Family and dog friendly. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Jan 14

## 2023 Uptown Swirl Downtown Brenham

Spend time Relaxing and tasting wine from all over the world. Swirl leisurely through quaint establishments nestled in Brenham's beautiful downtown National Register District. The Uptown Swirl is brought to you by the Main Street Brenham and the Downtown businesses (DowntownBrenham.com/Swirl).

Saturdays

## Sound on Stage Saturdays

Brazos Valley Brewery and Taproom is open Saturday from 12pm-10pm with

live music every Saturday from 6pm-9pm and all day on a beer release day. Playground for the kiddos and lots of outside seating for the doggos. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com)

Jan 17

## BVH Senior Discount Day

Brenham Veterinary Hospital offers a senior discount day on the third Tuesday of each month. Pet owners over age 50 save 15% on wellness exams, wellness vaccines, spays and neuters. By appointment only, please call 979-836-2472 to schedule. Small animals only, does not apply to large animals - cattle, horses, llamas, donkeys etc. (brenhamvethospital.com).

Wednesdays

## Hop Day Wednesday

Open 3pm to 9pm with Dapper Bear Food Truck from 4pm to 9pm serving their famous crabcakes and other seafood goodies. Family and pet friendly with plenty of outside seating and playground. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Jan 19

## Connect After 4 - Bank of Brenham

This event invites you to come enjoy some great networking, delicious food and refreshments!

Bring plenty of business cards to share with other members, 4-6pm, Bank of Brenham, 501 S. Austin St., Brenham.

Jan 19

## Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring Dennis Ivey, Howard Davenport, and The Bluebonnet Opry House Band. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show Starts at 7:30 p.m. Grill is open for great tasting food. Silver Wings Ballroom, 4100 Hwy. 105, Brenham. Tickets \$8 at the door

(friendsofbluebonnetopry.com).

Jan 19

## Brenham Heritage Museum Foodways Tastings: Beer

With Mike Hopkins Distributing, Brazos

Valley Brewing, & Brenham Charcuterie Boards. Visit the museum website for more information (BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org).

Jan 21

## Business Pillar Event

Kingdom Principles, Local Outreach, & Stewardship. Speakers Jerry Bowyer, Alex Acosta, and Nathan Sheets. The Barnhill Center, 111 W. Main St., 9am-3pm. Visit the website for more information (TexasLeadershipSummit.org).

Jan 21

## Living History Saturday

Travel back in time to where a nation was born in 1836. On the third Saturday of each month, staff and volunteers dress in period clothing to bring to life the people and events of Old Washington for a unique opportunity for the entire family to discover various aspects of life during the Republic of Texas. The program features family activities including writing with a quill pen, signing a copy of the Texas

Jan 26

## Ribbon Cutting - Emergency Room Renovation Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Brenham

Join in celebrating these renovations at 700 Medical Parkway, Brenham, 10am.

Jan 26

## Brenham Game Changers Purse Bingo

The Purse Bingo event will raise money for children (Pre-K through 12th grade) for after-school activity scholarships, supporting character education in the community, and hosting events like: the annual student etiquette dinner and mock interview sessions with local businesses. For questions, please email: bgcpursebingo@gmail.com (BrenhamGameChangers.com).

## February Highlights

Feb 2

## 2023 Washington County Chamber of Commerce/Brenham EDF Annual Banquet

Join in honoring the incredible citizens, businesses and volunteers of this community. Man and Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, and Non-Profit of the Year awards will be announced. Tickets are on sale until January 24. Call 979-836-3694 or visit the Chamber office at 314 S. Austin St., Brenham.

Feb 4

## Brenham Heritage Museum Fundraiser at La Bahia

An evening of dancing and good times in an historic Texas dance hall with great music. La Bahia Turn Verein, Burton. Doors open at 6pm and the music starts at 7pm (BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org).

Feb 7

## Wake Up, Washington County! Networking Breakfast

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 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 to share. First Baptist Church School, 302 Pahl St., Brenham, 7:45am.

Feb 9

## Baylor Scott & White Foundation-Brenham Valentine Ball

The Annual Baylor Scott & White Foundation-Brenham Valentine Ball is back and better than ever before (BSWHealth.com/brenham).



LEADERSHIP Continued from page 4



Kris Gore and others work together on a fun teambuilding exercise that can be used to help train nurses on working effectively as a team.

Leadership Washington County is a program of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce designed to train and motivate current and future leaders of our community. Graduates of the program are highly sought by civic groups and valued by local employers. The next class will form in July and begin in August.



**Stats – from the month of: December 2022**

Walk-In's  
**Chamber of Commerce 218**

Website – [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com)

Unique Visitors **5,507** Total Pages **9,256**

## Save the Date

**February 2**

Washington County Chamber Annual Banquet & Awards

**February 27**

Washington County Day at the Capitol

**March 29**

State of Healthcare Forum

**April 24**

9th Annual Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Luncheon

**April 28**

3rd Annual Chamber Classic Golf Tournament

**August**

Tailgate 2023

## Washington County Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 20-25 members and more than 50 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.

**Justin Colley**

*BIG — Brannon Industrial Group*

**Genna Lechler**

*Brand It Graphix*

**Linda Pipes**

*Retired-School Teacher*

**Amy Supak**

*Kruse Village*

**Joyce Dickschat**

*Brenham National Bank*

**Lauren Maass**

*Germania Insurance*

**Carl Prihoda**

*Citizens State Bank*

**Kristie Wensel**

*Brenham State Supported Living Center*

**Melissa Duckworth**

*Thielemann Construction*

**Kristie Marth**

*Brenham Iron Works*

**Teresa Rosales**

*Cardinal Financial*

**Barbara Wilganowski**

*Spherion Staffing*

**Brianna Edmunds**

*PLANNORTH Architectural Co.*

**Courtney Mason**

*Brenham ISD*

**Jeffrey Sadler**

*BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings*

**Brooke Huckert**

*ValuePoint Wealth Management*

**Rachel Nordt**

*Edward Jones*

**Christy Schlottmann**

*Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency*

**Tammy Jaster**

*City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center*

**Pita Pangan**

*Associated Credit Union of Texas*

**Chris Ann Stroech**

*Washington County Landscapes*

# “Chamberversary” Celebration Visits

The Blue Blazers have begun celebrating our member’s “Chamberversaries” by surprising them with Celebration Visits and thanking them for their investment.



**Legend Texas Properties**  
**Shelly Moschak**  
**5 years**



**Century 21 and**  
**We Manage Properties**  
**10 years**



**Webb Printing**  
**20 years**



**Personnel Services**  
**25 years**



**Moore Supply Co./The Bath**  
**& Kitchen Showplace**  
**30 years**



**Silver Wings Ballroom**  
**45 years**



# Connect After 4

**Networking Event**

**Thursday, January 19  
4 - 6 p.m**

*Sponsored by*

**Bank of Brenham**

*501 S Austin St., Brenham*

Unwind after work and expand your network!  
Meet other Chamber members and generate  
new business contacts. Enjoy food and drinks,  
learn what's new in the community, and  
exchange business cards and brochures.

*Free for Chamber members and employees!*

Beverages sponsored by Mike Hopkins Distributing.

## **"Wake Up, Washington County!" Networking Breakfast**

**Tuesday, February 7  
Starts at 7:45 a.m.**

**Hosted by:**

**First Baptist Church School  
& Early Education Center  
302 Pahl St., Brenham**

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.

## *Jet Noticed*

*The ChamberWorks* newsletter is published inside *The Banner-Press*. Chamber members have the opportunity to advertise in this newspaper. Rates start at only \$25 per month.

If you are looking for a new opportunity to advertise, just call Jane Hinze at 836-3695.

Another great way to promote your organization is through targeted emails. The Chamber will forward your "e-message" to all members, as long as it meets certain criteria. For non-profits, it should not have a strong-sell for sponsorships or donations. The message should be newsworthy, typically about an upcoming event. For regular business, it should also be about upcoming special events, as long as there is no purchase required for the reader to experience the event.

E-messages are sent a maximum of once per quarter per member during each calendar year.