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Dr. Henry Musoma to Speak at Annual Banquet on January 30



Musoma

The Washington County Chamber is pleased to announce that Dr. Henry Musoma of the Mays School of Business Texas A&M University System, will be the featured speaker at the 2018 Annual Banquet. The event will be held on Tuesday, January 30, at Fireman's Training Center in Brenham. The theme of the banquet is "Building Relationships For A Better World."

"We are very happy to have Dr. Musoma as our banquet speaker. He is an inspirational lecturer and a passionate and caring professor," said Kyle Merten, outgoing Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Henry Musoma was born and raised in Zambia, a country in Southern Africa. He attended high school in Zambia and Mozambique, then moved to the

United States to pursue higher education. He received a bachelor's and master's degree from Texas A&M University, and a doctorate from Texas Christian University.

His multi-national background has afforded him significant insight into national and international global perspectives on leadership and leadership development.

He enjoys teaching young people about leadership, and has traveled each summer since 2014 with a group of Regents' Scholars (first-generation college students) to Dubai, South Africa, and Zambia. He also leads a Spring Break program to Heifer International Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. He has been actively involved in university and community leadership development throughout his aca-

ademic tenure, and has received numerous awards.

In 2008, he received a "Fish Camp Namesake Award," an honor given to individuals who have contributed to Texas A&M in a positive way. In 2013, he received the Dr. Robert M. Gates Inspiration Award from Texas A&M to recognize his role in establishing the Regent's Ambassador Program, which offers freshmen and sophomore Regents' Scholars personal and professional leadership development opportunities. It has contributed to increased enrollment of underrepresented populations.

In 2015, he received the Diversity Medal from the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets' Cultural Awareness and Diversity Expansion Team and he was keynote speaker for Big Event, the nation's largest student-run service project.

In 2017, he was a recipient of the university-level Distinguished Achievement Awards given to professionals who have exhibited the highest standards of excellence at Texas A&M.

Dr. Musoma also received the first Mays Spirit Award in 2017 for his act of kindness to a student who couldn't find a babysitter during class time. He encouraged her to bring the baby to class. This positive incident garnered national attention, including on the "Ellen" TV show.

Kyle Merten, immediate past Chairman of the Board and the Director of Alumni Relations at Blinn College Alumni and Friends Association, will introduce Dr. Musoma. Wesley Brinkmeyer of Bluebonnet Electric and past Chairman of the Board of the Chamber, will serve as the MC of the event.

Chairman Circle sponsors of the banquet include **Baylor Scott & White Health, Brenham Abstract & Title Company, Bren-**

ham Clinic, Brenham National Bank, Germania Insurance and Van Dyke Rankin Insurance. Superior Sponsors are **Blinn College, Blue Bell Creameries, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge.**

"We are very grateful to these sponsors," said Page Michel, Chamber president, "because 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."

Five Washington County Chamber board directors who ended their term of service in December will be recognized: Kurt Alfred of Brenham National Bank; Tammy Jaster of the City of Brenham - Blue Bell Aquatic Center; James Pharaon of Germania Insurance and James Pharaon Photography; and Cyn-dee Smith of Oldham Goodwin Group. Randy Wells of Faith Mission served as First Vice Chair in 2017 and will remain on the board in 2018 as Chairman.

Two retiring Brenham Economic Development Foundation board members will also be recognized: Roger Atkins of RJ3 Enterprises and Stephen Miller of Brenham Wholesale.

Another highlight of the evening will be the announcement of the Man and Woman of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Award winners. Last year's recipients were Nina Hopkins and Frank Blizzard who will return to do the surprise introductions of the 2017 winners. The Blue Blazer of the Year Award will also be announced.

Tickets for the banquet are now on sale at the Washington County Chamber, located at 314 S. Austin Street in Brenham. Individual tickets are \$40 per person, on sale until January 23.

"CONNECT AFTER 5"

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

HOSTED BY:

Bank of Brenham & Funky Art Café and Catering

in the Bank of Brenham Lobby
501 S. Austin St., Brenham

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

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

People like doing business with people they know.

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

Free for Chamber members and employees!

Learn more about event sponsors online:

www.BankBoB.com | www.FunkyArtCafe.com

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WWW.BREHAMTEXAS.COM

Live2Lead Leadership Experience to be presented on Feb. 28

Live2Lead is a half-day leader development experience designed to equip attendees with new perspective, practical tools and key takeaways. Attendees will learn from the world-class leadership experts of John Maxwell, Dave Ramsey, Cheryl Bachelder and Warrick Dunn.

In Brenham the program will be facilitated by Dr. Heather Thielemann, a John Maxwell Certified Speaker/Trainer and community leader in several organizations in Washington County. It will be held at The Barnhill Center and participants will gain an extraordinary amount of valuable information and inspiration.



Thielemann

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 28

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

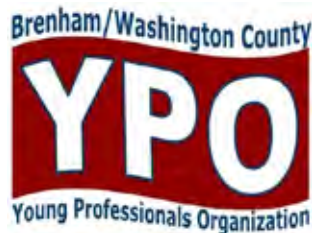
Location: The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre

Tickets: \$99

Register online at

www.brenhamtexas.com/pages/LIVE2LEADbrenham

or by calling 979-836-3695 or by email to shae@brenhamtexas.com



Networking Happy Hour

Thursday, January 25

at Independence Coffee Company

2805 Hwy. 290 W., Brenham

5-7 p.m.

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

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



Members of the YPO held an Ugly Holiday Attire party in December at Bank of Brenham.

Benefits of Joining Young Professionals Organization

If you are looking for an effective way to network in your community, a young professionals' organization may be for you. Here's some reasons why:

Networking in person still matters. Even if you are securely employed, the value of face-to-face contact in networking should not be overestimated. The Washington County YPO offers community service, social events, lunch and learns and other gatherings that provide a chance to make impressions live and in color.

Volunteering for a YPO also gives you a chance to demonstrate how well you interact with others. You can use your YPO colleagues to help hone your "elevator pitch" when meeting new people. In most professions, employers are looking for people who have strong interpersonal skills, and this is a great way to show it.

Corporate connections are important to every professional, whether you're interested in non-profit management, government agency work or launching a high-tech startup. Experts estimate that 60-80 percent of jobs are found through personal



The Washington County YPO group holds a "Happy Hour" once a month in different locations around the county.

relationships. There is no better way to forge personal, local relationships than hanging out with young professionals from different industries. Share your goals and keep your eyes and ears open for new opportunities.

Participating in a young professionals' group can be an impressive addition to your resume. It shows an interest in volunteerism and a willingness to take on leadership roles in your community.

You can make new friends! Gone are the days when you can find your new bestie bonding over chemistry lab work. Whether you are in a new city or a simply new phase of your professional life, joining a networking group can connect you with a whole group of friends.

Check out the Young Professionals of Washington County on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YPOWashingtonCounty.

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 Brenham, Texas 77833
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 info@23fitness.com
 www.23fitness.com
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ARM RIVER BUILDERS
 Owner: Dara Childs
 1330 South Berlin Road
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 281-914-9416
 darachilds@yahoo.com
 www.armriver.com
Construction Contractors

KMIEC CONSTRUCTION, LLC
 Owner: Cori Kmiec
 5313 FM 2502
 Burton, Texas 77835
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 kmiecconstruction@yahoo.com
 www.kmiecconstruction.com
Contractors-Building

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Renewing Members

December 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.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Chappell Hill Historical Society — 49 years | Golden Mirror Salon Suites — 12 years | Barking Ranch Pet Resort — 3 years |
| Washington Animal Clinic — 33 years | Lifetime Learning — 10 years | Capitol Ranch Real Estate — 3 years |
| Alexander Oil Company — 31 years | Melissa L. Gerke DDS, PA — 6 years | Oldham Goodwin Group — 3 years |
| Upchurch Architects — 19 years | Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Steakhouse — 6 years | Berkeley Eye Center-Brenham — 2 years |
| Culligan of Brenham — 17 years | St. Paul's Christian Day School — 5 years | Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant — 2 years |
| Triple T Refrigeration — 14 years | Champion Fellowship — 4 years | Metro Container — 2 years |
| Brenham Carpet & Tile — 13 years | Focusing Families — 4 years | PlanNorth Architectural Co. — 1 year |

Business Spotlight

New Beginnings Pregnancy Center

On Thursday, Feb. 22, New Beginnings will host its annual CELEBRATION OF LIFE banquet. The pregnancy center has served the women, men and children of Washington and surrounding counties for 16 years, providing pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling and education.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Kathy Koch, founder and president of Celebrate Kids, Inc., an internationally celebrated speaker who has influenced thousands of parents, teachers, and children in 30 countries through keynote messages, workshops, seminars, assemblies,

and other events. Her practical, relevant, results-oriented concepts and engaging and humorous speaking style draw enthusiastic raves from children, teens, parents and educators.

Dr. Kathy has written four books for Moody Publishers. Her newest book, Screens and Teens: Connecting with Our Kids in a Wireless World, is about how technology influences beliefs and behaviors of young people and what to do about it.

Dr. Kathy earned a Ph.D. in reading and educational psychology from Purdue University. She was a tenured associate

professor of education at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a teacher of second graders, a middle school coach, and a school board member prior to becoming a full-time conference and keynote speaker in 1991.

New Beginnings receives no government funding; it is funded solely by the contributions of those in the area served. This event provides almost half its yearly operating revenue and they hope you will plan to attend!

For more information contact Delores (979)836-0397 or delores@newbeginningsbrenham.org.

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WWW.BRENHAMTEXAS.COM

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



Many more events can be found online at VisitBrenhamTexas.com or in the FREE [VisitBrenham App!](#)



Keep Our Local Economy Strong!
Find nearly 850 local businesses at www.BrenhamTexas.com



Washington County Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 15-20 members and 40 years of tradition. They support the mission of the Washington County Chamber. The volunteers in the club act as official greeters and hosts of our community. Their activities include monthly meetings, greeting at Chamber functions, recruiting new Chamber members, and conducting ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

Michael Branton
Seidel Schroeder

Darlene Denman
Brenham ISD

Joyce Dickschat
Brenham National Bank

Coy Fontenot
Kruse Village

Wendy Frazier
Associated Credit Union of Texas

Eddie Harrison
Retired-Brenham Municipal Judge

Tammy Jaster
City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Crystal Locke
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Debra Wenckens
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Christy Schlottmann
Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency

Randy Weidemann
Van Dyke Rankin & Company

Matt Wellmann
Wellmann Insurance

Shelby Wiesepape
Bank of Brenham

Barbara Wilganowski
Spherion Staffing

Kristie Wensel
Brenham State Supported Living Center

Leadership in Health Care



Brenham Clinic Administrator Melissa McCune welcomes the class.

The December 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 Brenham Clinic with a welcome by Administrator Melissa McCune (LWC Class of 2000), followed by presentations from Dr. William Loesch, Dr. Jeff Stoltenberg, Dr. Eric Alford and Dr. Jennifer Jones.

After leaving the Brenham Clinic, the group was transported to the Texas A&M Health Science Center in College Station. The center is home to several Blinn College vocational programs. It is a multi-million dollar facility complete with simulated delivery rooms, simulated ambulance and simulation mannequins. Each of

the simulators is controlled through software guided by instructors and recorded so students can play back recordings and view their progress. The classrooms and technology are highly impressive, offering Blinn student's excellent instruction and experience.

The session concluded with a tour of Brenham's Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, led by Beth Teverbaugh, Director of Nursing.

Leadership Washington County is a program of the Brenham/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.



Beth Teverbaugh, Director of Nursing at Baylor Scott & White in Brenham, welcomes the class before taking them on a tour of the hospital.



Sami Rahman, Director of Simulation and Clinical Labs at the Texas A&M Health Science Center, shows allows Angelia Gerhard to help assist with a demonstration.



TAMHSC Director of EMS Services Zack Varner gives the class a look at one of the procedures students learn when taking Emergency Management classes.



Dr. Christy Gantt, Director of Physical Therapy, demonstrates the state of the art equipment used at the facility.

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

Photo Contest



Voting is now open online through January 31. Vote for as many photos as you like, or just your top choice. Go to VisitBrenhamTexas.com/photo-contest to take a look and vote for your favorites. The winning photo will be publicized in early February, so stay tuned!

Team Spotlight

Jenny Mills

Hey, howdy! No, I'm not an Aggie, but I AM a Texan. Born and raised right here in Brenham, I graduated in 1994, attended Blinn and Sam Houston, and then moved to Colorado for nearly eight years. After too much snow and cold, I decided it was time to return home and reconnect with my family.

I've been working for the Chamber-CVB for six years and am currently the Tourism Director. I love tourism because I love to travel. Anytime there's an opportunity to get out of my Brenham bubble, I'm ready! In fact, the next adventure just might be a Mediterranean cruise and a skip around the Tuscan region of Italy.

I'm a mom to two small dogs, serve in the sound booth at church, enjoy cycling and time in nature, love chocolate and potatoes (not necessarily at the same time), and look forward to learning new things.



Mills

Where's Della?



"Did you know this historic place in Washington County is recognized by the Smithsonian?"

Do you know where Della is this month? Email your name, phone number and location guess to Della@BrenhamTexas.com by January 31. A winner will be chosen on Feb. 1 from all correct entries.

In December, Della had a play date at the dog park! After all that birthday and holiday pie, she needed to run off some calories with her friends. Located just a couple of miles north on Hwy 36, the Animal Friends dog park is a wonderful asset to Brenham. There are water features, agility equipment, and even a bathing station! Open Tuesday through Sunday from sunrise to sunset, bring your dogs, big and small, and let them play off-leash in a safe environment. Congrats to **Frank Juarez** for guessing correctly in December!

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!

Courtney's Corner

Next month, February 24-28, there will be a large Sheepdog Trial in Brenham with competitors from all over the United States and Canada. The judge will even be coming in from Wales! If you've never seen a sheepdog work in one of these competitions, you should come watch. This event welcomes and encourages spectators, so give us a call at the Visitor Center if you would like more information.



We love to work with unique groups like this, especially when there are visitors coming from outside of the area, as it allows us to show off all that Washington County has to offer. If you are a part of an organization that holds events or meetings, let us know how we can help to make your event a success!

Ask Jennifer

"Can I see inside the Simon Theatre and Bullock Ballroom?"

We get asked this a lot since the Visitor Center is in the lower portion of The Barnhill Center. Unfortunately, the Simon Theatre and Bullock Ballroom are not open on a daily basis. They are available for monthly cultural events (www.TheBarnhillCenter.com) and are both available to rent through the City of Brenham.

If you're itching to see the theatre, or show it off to your friends, come on the weekend! The Simon Theatre hosts the "Dawn of Washington County" movie most Saturdays at 11 am, 1 pm and 2 pm, as well as the first Sunday of each month at noon, 1pm and 2pm. For just \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids under 12, you can see the inside of the theatre and learn the history of Brenham and how it was named!



Travel Tip:

"I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."

— Susan Sontag

Working for YOU!

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

WALK-INS

Visitor Center Dec. 2017 — 317 HQ Building Dec. 2017 — 435

WEBSITE

www.BrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors Dec. 2017 — 7,040 Total Pages Dec. 2017 — 12,768

WEBSITE

www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors Dec. 2017 — 9,912 Total Pages Dec. 2017 — 76,954



Upcoming Fun

There isn't any room for the holiday blues at these upcoming events! For full details and to read about more fun things to do, go to www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com.

Uptown Swirl will happen on January 13 from 3-7pm in Downtown Brenham. Glasses are on sale now. For only \$40, you get a keepsake glass and get to taste more than 40 wines while shopping in cute stores with your friends. Purchase online: www.DowntownBrenham.com.

All My Sons is playing at Unity The-

atre February 1-18, Thursday through Sunday. **All My Sons** is an intense drama concerning the relationships between fathers and sons written by Arthur Miller. Purchase online: www.UnityBrenham.org

Spring Blossoms Quilt Show will be Feb. 2 from 10-5 and Feb. 3 from 10-4 at Fireman's Training Center. This wonderful show features both contemporary and traditional quilts, as well as quilts for sale, a boutique, and vendors. Attendees will have a chance to win a door prize, participate in the fat quarter raffle, and win the prized donation quilt of the year.

What's Happening in January

Jan 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

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).

Jan 12-14, 19-21, 26-28

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).

Jan 12-14, 19-21, 26-28

Brazos Valley Brewery Patio Open

Enjoy craft beer with friends, Friday 5-10pm, Saturday 12-8pm, Sunday 1-6pm, 201 W. First St., Downtown Brenham (www.BrazosValleyBrewery.com).

Jan 13

"Step Into the Past" Tours

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

Jan 13

Uptown Swirl in Downtown Brenham

Taste over 40 different wines and take home a commemorative glass, 3-7pm (www.DowntownBrenham.com/swirl).

Jan 13

Marimba and Piano Concert at Festival Hill

Thomas Burritt performs solo marimba, joined by pianist James Dick, the Institute's Founder and Artistic Director. Percussion students from the University of Texas Butler School of Music will provide accompaniment for some works. Festival Hill, 248 Jaster Rd., Round Top, 3-5pm (www.FestivalHill.org).

Jan 13

Movie at The Historic Simon Theatre

"Under The Tuscan Sun" rated PG13, The Barnhill Center, 111 West Main St., Brenham, 7:30pm (www.TheBarnhillCenter.com).

Jan 15

Cut It Out: Salons Against Domestic Abuse

A program of Professional Beauty Association Foundation to mobilize salon professionals and others to fight the epidemic of domestic abuse by building awareness and training to recognize warning signs. Call Tiffany Young to schedule (979-551-2152).

Jan 15

24th Annual MLK Grande Parade in Midtown Houston

Originating on San Jacinto Street & Elgin Street beginning at 10am (www.mlkggrandeparade.org, 713-953-1633).

Jan 16

Cooking Class

Cooking with Liz from 96 West. Learn the art of making a roux and how to use it several different ways for soups. Learn to make beef stew and cook with fresh herbs. Brenham Country Club, 4107 Hwy 105, Brenham (www.BrenhamCC.com, 979-836-1733).

Jan 16

Brenham FFA Alumni Meeting

New members welcome, open to anyone. Funds raised support scholarships for our youth. Join to see how you can help. Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant, 6:30pm (Cassi Herrin, Secretary, 979-451-0063).

Jan 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, Feb. 1

Play in the Clay

One night make your own pieces, return a second night to decorate/glaze. \$80 per person for 2 classes, Tuesday and Thursdays from 7-9 pm. Arrangements can be made for other nights. Reserve seats (979-289-3765, www.BluebonnetPottery.com).

Jan 17-20

Hope Rising's Hands that Heal Certification Training

International curriculum to train caregivers of trafficking survivors, Lydia's House, 311 S. Baylor, Downtown Brenham, Wed-Sat, 7am-5pm (www.HopeRisingMinistries.org, 832-779-2190).

Jan 17

Community Health Fair

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center's Community Wellness & Diabetes Center invites you to a Community Health Fair, 2111 S. Day St., 6-9am, appointments required (Kristey Tedder, 979-830-5017).

Jan 17, 24, 31

Adult Dance Exercise Classes

Spring Classes at Unity Theatre. Classes are an hour long, 5-6pm and 6-7pm, 12 weeks \$125 (www.UnityBrenham.org, Jamie Ward 979-830-1460 ext 14).

Jan 18

Learn Well Live Well - Parkinson's

Physical Therapist presents movement therapy for persons with Parkinson's disease, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center Education Room, 12-1pm, free (979-830-5017, Kirstey.tedder@BSWHealth.org).

Jan 18

Connect After 5 - Bank of Brenham

Bring business cards to share, free for Chamber members and employees. Bank of Brenham, 501 S. Austin St., 5-7pm.

Jan 18

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring Frank Cavitt, Sister Sue, Sean Orr, 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).

Jan 18

Buccaneer Expeditions Tuscany Travel Information Meeting

Information Session, 5:30pm, Blinn College Student Center, Brenham.

Jan 19

Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

To be held at Wash. County Fairgrounds Event Center. Social Hour 6pm, followed by business meeting to elect officers, then stew dinner at 6:45pm. Featured speaker Gary Stephens with Wildlife Habitat Federation (www.WCWildlife.org).

Jan 20

Texas Master Naturalists

Gideon Lincecum Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Program, Winedale Historical Complex Meadows/Terry Center, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, 10:30am-noon (www.txmn.org/glc, 979-278-3530).

Jan 20

Red Hot Chili Cook Off

Round Top Family Library host its 14th annual cook off at The Stone Cellar, 550 N. Washington St., Round Top, 12-3pm, \$10 adults, children 12 and under free (www.ilovetoread.org, 979-249-2700).

Jan 21

Henkel Hall Wedding Show

Meet caterers, coordinators, floral designers, photographers, cake designer, musicians, hair and makeup artists. Wedding dress runway show at 2 p.m. Grab a ride to selected B&B's to find your lodging for you and your family on your Destination Wedding Weekend, 12-4pm, Henkel Square Market, 199 Henkel Circle, Round Top (www.HenkelSquareRoundTop.com).

Jan 22, 29

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

A money-management class taught by America's most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey. Learn the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, saving for the future and more. 6-7:30pm, Abiding Word Lutheran Church, 464 Oak Tree Crossing, Brenham (register online https://fpu.com/1048972, www.AbidingWordBrenham.org).

Jan 24

Brenham Area Real Estate Investors and Landlords Meeting

BAREIL meets monthly with the purpose of helping new and experienced investors/landlords to educate members in real estate investing/landlording and to provide networking opportunities. Vendors welcome to network as well. Citizens State Bank, 2007 St. Day St., Brenham, 11:30am-1pm (512-468-3235, jamesh7213@gmail.com).

Jan 25

YPO Happy Hour at Independence Coffee

Professionals age 21-45 are invited for networking, food, drinks, and prizes,

2805 US 290, Brenham, 5-7pm (facebook.com/ypowashingtoncounty, washcoypo@gmail.com).

Jan 26-27

Winter Antiques Show

A mix of early antiques, English antiques, country, fine glass, and more. Located in a fully climate controlled building for ease of shopping, The Big Red Barn, Round Top, 9am-5pm (www.RoundTopTexasAntiques.com).

Jan 26

storyPLAY!

Storytime for the whole family with creative drama activities for children ages 4-8. Professional actress Jamie Ward introduces basic theatre skills through interactive storytelling, movement and music. Unity Theatre, 300 Church St., Downtown Brenham, 10-10:45am, free (www.UnityBrenham.org/educaton, 979-830-1460 ext. 14).

Jan 26

Focusing Families Fundraising Dinner and Auction

Healing Hearts Wounded by Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Austin County Fairgrounds, Bellville, 6:30-9pm, tickets \$40, 979-826-3290).

Jan 26

Intimate Evening with Larry Gatlin

Brenham Christian Academy's annual fundraiser at Rockin' Star Ranch. Dinner, live auction, and concert by Larry Gatlin. Doors open 6pm, dinner 7pm, live auction 8pm followed by concert and fireworks, 8002 Fuelberg Pease Lane, Brenham, 6-11pm, call to reserve tables (979-830-8480).

Jan 27

First Baptist Church School 40th Anniversary Celebration

Celebration for former students, teachers and administrators of First Baptist Church School, 303 N. Market St. in the gym, 5-7pm, tickets \$15 advance purchase for meal (www.FBCSBrenham.org, Judy Hyman 979-836-6411).

Jan 28

Bridal Show

Visit with a variety of local professionals at The Barnhill Center, 111 West Main St., Downtown Brenham, 1-3pm, \$15 in advance, \$20 cash only at the door (www.TheBarnhillCenter.com).

Jan 30

Chamber of Commerce/EDF Annual Banquet

Hosted at the Fireman's Training Center, Brenham, 5:30pm, tickets \$40 on sale until Jan. 23 (979-836-3695).

Calendar

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FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Feb 1
Homeschool Acting Class - Spring Showcase
 Students strengthen theatre skills as they prepare and present Kids on Strike! A compilation of pieces dealing with rights of children during Industrial Revolution, grades 4-12, ages 9-18, Unity Theatre, 300 Church St., Downtown Brenham, 1-3pm, 10 classes \$150. Showcase on April 12 (www.UnityBrenham.org, 979-830-1460).

Feb 1
"All My Sons" at Unity Theatre
 In 1947, Arthur Miller exploded onto Broadway with this first major work, winning both the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best New Play and the Tony for Best Author. This intense drama concerns the relationships between fathers and sons and the conflict between business and personal ethics. Performances February 1-18, show times and ticket info online (www.UnityBrenham.org).

Feb 2-3
Spring Blossoms Quilt Show
 Presented by Friendship Quilt Guild. Quilt judging and vendors from across the state, tickets \$7 and children under 6 are free, Fireman's Training Center, 1101 Hwy 290 W., Brenham (http://friendshipquiltguild.weebly.com).

Feb 3-4, 10-11
Wine & Chocolate Trail
 Trail tickets allow you to sample two wine tastings paired with a wonderful chocolate delicacy (appetizer portion) at each of the member wineries along the Texas Bluebonnet Wine Trail (www.TexasBluebonnetWine-Trail.com).

Feb 3
CASA Casino Night
 Benefiting CASA for Kids with blackjack, roulette, craps, slots, 3 card poker, Texas hold'em. Tickets include dinner, dessert, mug and 10,000 CASA bucks. Sponsorships available. Gaming, prizes, raffle, auction and lots of FUN! Must be 21 to attend, Austin County Fairgrounds Expo, Bellville (www.WeSpeak4Kids.org).

Feb. 28
Live2Lead Leadership Development
 Valuable half-day workshop to equip you with new perspective, practical tools, and key takeaways. Attendees will learn from world-class leadership experts John Maxwell, Dave Ramsey, Cheryl Bachelder and Warrick Dunn. Facilitated by Dr. Heather Thielemann, a John Maxwell Certified Speaker/Trainer and community leader. Held at The Barnhill Center, 111 W. Main St., Downtown Brenham, 8am-noon. Purchase tickets online or at the Chamber of Commerce, 314 S. Austin St., Brenham (www.BrenhamTexas.com/pages/LIVE2LEADBrenham).



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!

Did You Know?

That the Chamber provides hundreds of "Relocation Info" packages every year to individuals and businesses who are considering moving to this community. As a member, you are eligible to include your promotional material and reach this targeted audience for a nominal annual fee (\$85). Contact the Chamber office to be included.

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

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