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**LIFE'S A BEACH**...sometimes you catch the perfect wave that deposits you gently on the shore and sometimes you just end up with a swimsuit full of sandy grit. I've had the great good fortune to log some serious beach time this summer and the good waves have made the grit worthwhile.

A more typical summer finds our family looking for amusement much closer to home, which is one reason *Insite* has devoted large sections of the May, June and July magazines to Simple Summer Getaways. With Part III in this month's issue, writer Erin Littlefield has found a wealth of activities for all ages around the Brazos Valley. Organized by region, this month explores Caldwell, Huntsville, Washington-on-the-Brazos and Bryan/College Station. Having lived and worked in the Brazos Valley for almost 30 years, I have visited many of the places Erin has brought to life, but even the tried and true destinations like Washington-on-the-Brazos offer new programs to keep visitors coming back. She also has managed to find a surprising number of new activities and locations for even the most well-traveled locals. If you missed Simple Summer Getaways Parts I & II, no worries. Just go to [www.insitegroup.com](http://www.insitegroup.com) and read them on the web.

To bring you even more of the sights and sounds of summer, KBTX 3 goes On the Road every Thursday in July at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. (see page 10 for a list of specific dates and destinations). Starting right here in Bryan on July 5 and winding up in Washington County on July 26, the Channel 3 news team will help you plan a weekend getaway and even tell you what the weather has in store.

Sure, gas prices and temperatures may be up, but you don't have to go too far down the road to find cool ways to relax and enjoy yourself. Here's hoping the rest of your summer is full of great waves that wash away most of the annoying grit.

— Angelique Gammon



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**ON THE COVER:** Opening night for the Brazos Bombers baseball team at Brazos Valley Bank Ballpark in Bryan. Photo by Marcie Greenbaum, Specialties Photography.

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## Torchbearers Exhibit to Shine through September

Enjoyed reading Naomi Giroux's in-depth article (and photos) on one of Texas A&M's great artists and professors (*Art to Inspire*, June). Your readers will be glad to know Robert Schiffhauer's African American Torchbearers exhibit remains open through September 15 at the African American Museum, 500 East 20th Street (in June, 20th street was renamed Pruitt Street in honor of the founders of the museum, Mell and Willie Pruitt). Call the museum at 779-3961 for further information.

**Susan Gordone**

## First Aid for Fido

I enjoyed the *Furry Friends* article in the June 2007 issue. Recognizing the importance of pets and in keeping with the American Red Cross mission to "...help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies," the Brazos Valley Branch Red Cross offers a Pet First Aid course for cat and dog lovers. The four-hour training session provides simple, easy to understand instructions to care for injuries and illnesses, plus practical pet health tips such as symptoms and care for common ailments and emergencies, including CPR and instructions for creating a pet first-aid kit. The \$40 registration for the workshop includes an excellent handbook.

**Sharon Zambrzycki, Branch Manager**  
Brazos Valley Branch American Red Cross  
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## GET IN TOUCH WITH INSITE MAGAZINE

Submit all Letters, What's Happening and Around Town on our website: [www.insitegroup.com](http://www.insitegroup.com) or...

**Letters to the Editor** · Send to Angelique Gammon, **Insite Magazine**, 123 E. Wm. J. Bryan Pkwy., Bryan Texas 77803 or send email to [agammon@insitegroup.com](mailto:agammon@insitegroup.com)

**Happenings & Around Town** · Deadline to submit information is the 5th of the month preceding publication. Send Happenings to **Insite Magazine**, 123 E. Wm. J. Bryan Pkwy., Bryan Texas 77803 or email [agammon@insitegroup.com](mailto:agammon@insitegroup.com)

**Electronic Submissions** · All photos submitted electronically must be at least 3" wide at 300 dpi to be considered for publication. Be sure to include names and event description with photos. Email Business briefs, What's Happening events or Around Town photos to [agammon@insitegroup.com](mailto:agammon@insitegroup.com)

**Mail** · Mail business/event listings or photos with names and event description to **Insite Magazine** 123 East WJ Bryan Parkway, Bryan, TX 77803.

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# JULY events

## musictheatre

July 2-6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the **Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley** is holding **Short-Stalk Circus Camp** for ages 4-7. To learn more about Circus Camps, and other camps throughout July, visit [www.mymuseum.com](http://www.mymuseum.com) or call (979) 779-KIDS.

July 5 at 5:30 p.m. the **Arts Council of Brazos Valley** presents a reception for the artist **Jim Seigler**, whose works will be on display in the Texas Gallery throughout the month of July. Gallery hours are Monday through

Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Council at (979) 696-2787.

July 5-7 and 12-14 at 8 p.m., the **Brenham Unity Theatre** presents "**Harvey.**" Elwood P. Dowd, a philosophical gentleman, befriends a six-and-a-half-foot white rabbit. For more information, contact the Theatre at (979) 830-1460.

July 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., join the **Frame Gallery** in Downtown Bryan for **First Friday** including local art and live Jazz band starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Greta Watkins at (979) 822-0496.

July 9-13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the **Navasota Theatre Alliance** will hold a **Summer Youth Workshop** at the Sunny Furman Theatre.

July 13 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., the **Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley** will host its third annual "**Let's Have A Ball**" fundraiser at the Museum in Downtown Bryan. "Let's Have A Ball" is an adult-only event that promises to bring out the kid in everyone. Attire is casual for the fun-filled evening of games, activities, music, food and entertainment. All of the money raised at Let's Have A Ball goes back into the museum to benefit the scholarship and educational programs. Tickets are \$75 per couple or \$40 for individuals. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (979) 779-5437.

July 13-14 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the **Armstrong/Bergeron Dance Company** will host the **Brazos Contemporary Dance Festival** at StageCenter. For more information, contact Christine Bergeron at (979) 204-1932, email [cbergeron@hlkn.tamu.edu](mailto:cbergeron@hlkn.tamu.edu) or visit [www.abdance.org](http://www.abdance.org).

July 17 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the **Brazos Valley Stitchers** will work on **Hardanger Christmas Tree** with Sara-Jane Jordan at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. July 24 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Brazos Valley Stitchers will hold their monthly "Stitch-In" at Holy Cross Lutheran



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Church. For more information, contact Brenda Mooney at (979) 458-7302 or email [bmooney@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:bmooney@tfs.tamu.edu).

July 23-26, the **92nd Annual State Congress of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas** will be held at the College Station Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. A Pre-Congress Gospel Music Workshop will be conducted by Chester D. T. Baldwin at the Galilee Baptist Church in Bryan July 18-20. The annual session will open at 7 p.m. July 23 with a Workshop Choir musical at Central Baptist Church, 1991 Hwy. 158, Bryan. Daily sessions for Christian workers and youth will be held at area churches and the Lincoln Recreation Center. Evening worship services will be at Central Baptist Church. A session is being hosted by Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor A. C. Clark III, and Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Cedric Goodman. Area residents are encouraged to welcome delegates to College Station the evenings of July 23-24 at Central Baptist Church. Participation in daily sessions at area churches and the Lincoln Recreation Center July 24-26 is encouraged. For more information about the Congress, go to MBGCT Event Calendar at <http://pgbc.thischurch.org>.

July 27-29 and August 3-5, The **Theatre Company** presents **Thoroughly Modern Millie** at the Tejas Center. Winner of the 2003 Tony Award for Best Musical, this happy-go-lucky hit is based on the great Julie

Andrews musical movie about a young flapper caught in a white-slave trading scheme. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Ticket sales are cash or check only, therefore, the Arts Council is unable to reserve tickets. For more information, contact the Arts Council at (979) 696-2787.

## planahead

August 1 is the deadline for entries to the **2007 Brazos Bluebonnet Biannual Quilt Show** presented by the **Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild**. Show dates are October 12-13 at the Brazos Center and features a judged show with more than 100 beautiful quilts with cash prizes awarded to winning quilt artists. The show includes a vendor mall, live and silent auctions, a donation quilt, quilt appraisals by appointment and more. Admission is \$5 per person at the door or \$4 with donation quilt postcard, \$3 for Senior Citizens. Entry forms and rules and additional information are available at [www.bbqg.org](http://www.bbqg.org) or by calling Dawn Merker at (979) 774-4605.

## continuingevents

The **Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley** presents special theme days on a weekly basis throughout the summer: **Half-Price Mondays** where

admission is halfprice all day, **Terrific Tuesdays** featuring craft projects at 1 p.m., and **Feature Fridays** with a free movie and popcorn at 1 p.m. For more information, call The Children's Museum at (979) 779-KIDS or visit [www.mymuseum.com](http://www.mymuseum.com).

Through August 31, the **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History** presents **The Popular Art of Brazil**, showcasing the private collection of **Dr. Antonio La Pastina**. Ranging from recent works to 18th Century relics, from woodcarvings to ceramics, this wide-ranging collection contains many different artistic styles and is sure to please the art enthusiast, anthropologist, and even the casual observer. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Museum at (979) 776-2195.

Through August 31, the **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History** presents the **Flying Reptiles of the Frithiof Collection**. This display is of rare fossils of flying reptiles that lived during the same time period as, and are closely related to, dinosaurs. One of Texas' leading paleontological experts, "Dinosaur" George Blasing, will unveil these spectacular specimens, including the only known crested *Nyctosaurus* (a flying reptile) found in any collection. The hours for the Museum are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact the Museum at (979) 776-2195. *i*

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# Simple Summer Getaways Part III

Summer may be at its halfway point, but there's plenty of fun to be had before August is over. Road trips to Caldwell, Washington-on-the-Brazos and Huntsville provide pleasurable getaways, no matter your interests. And if a road trip feels like too much work, exploring Bryan and College Station is great fun with so many activities, destinations and happenings that it's not possible to list everything!



Mad Hatter's Tea Room

## CALDWELL

979-567-0000 [www.burlesoncountytexas.com](http://www.burlesoncountytexas.com)

This beautifully maintained community, west of Bryan/College Station on the Presidential Corridor (the drive between the presidential libraries of George H.W. Bush and Lyndon B. Johnson), is deservedly known as the Kolache Capital of Texas. Many a Highway 21 traveler has stopped in Caldwell for these old-world pastries. Their taste, whether fruity or meaty, may well conjure images of tables loaded with food and festively dressed dancers polkaing in the streets. Yes, it's time to put

the **23rd Annual Kolache Festival** – to be held Saturday, September 8 – on the calendar. The festival always provides a good time, as well as all manner of treats on sticks.

If you just can't wait until September, the Czech collectibles in the **Mad Hatter's Tea Room** gift shop may satisfy your cravings (979-567-3504/877-811-1965; [www.madhatterstearoom.com](http://www.madhatterstearoom.com)). Open Wednesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., this fanciful eatery makes a lovely daytrip destination offering breakfast, lunch and early dinner menu options.

Johnny and Jeanie Price, who restored the historic **Bowers' Building** when they bought it 15 years ago, operate both the Mad Hatter's Tea Room and **Lawyer's Landing**, a snug B&B on the second floor. The distinctive façade is easy to spot “just off the square” in downtown Caldwell, and the Lewis Carroll-inspired menu offers “Alice's Magic Mushroom Quiche” and “The Cheshire Cat's Surprise” apple pie.

The Prices write that, “On some cold wintry days when condensation covers the front window of the building, an eerie thing happens: ‘Bowers & Bowers, Attorney's at Law’ appears on the glass just like it looked almost 100 years ago” when the building really housed lawyers.

On that presidential corridor drive, it's worth your time to appreciate Caldwell's noted public art, especially the **Scrap Iron Art Sculpture** by **Joe C. Smith, MD**, a retired physician, artist and philosopher.

Brenda Van DeWalle, president/CEO of

the Burleson County Chamber of Commerce, describes his work as, “Unique sculptures from twisted steel, concrete, driftwood or rock.” His gallery of sculptured art forms on display in his yard is unlike anything else you're likely to encounter on the highway. Van DeWalle also notes that, “He has



Dr. Smith's Sculpture

sculpted many of the art seen also in College Station at the airport and across from the A&M campus.”

Caldwell also hosts a bustling farmer's market every Saturday through the end of July on its downtown square. Local farmers bring a variety of produce and other items to sell. One such interesting local farm is **The Purple Gate Herb Farm** (979-567-9824; [www.pgherbfarm.bigstep.com/](http://www.pgherbfarm.bigstep.com/)). Tours are by appointment only, and the shop is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. also by appointment. The detailed website provides plenty of visuals for potential guests. Visitors to Purple Gate Herb Farm can expect to learn about medicinal herbs, say owners Bud and Mary Mills, who also write on their website, “We grow herbs mingled with wildflowers in theme gardens bordered by native woods. We strive to provide quality plants to our customers. We also provide extensive information about each plant to help our customers enjoy growing and using each plant.”

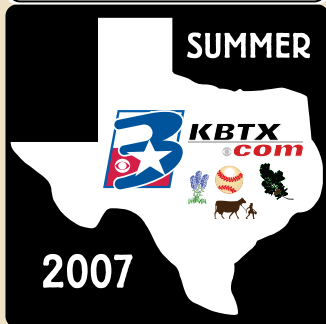
When visiting the downtown square, stop by the **Kraitchar House**; tours are offered free of charge, though donations are gratefully accepted. The house, built in 1886, serves as the **Burleson County Historical Society**



Kraitchar House

## ON THE ROAD

SUMMER



### Go On the Road this month with KBTX 3 and Insite Magazine

See and hear more of the sights and sounds of summer this month as **Insite Magazine** and **KBTX 3** go On the Road around the Brazos Valley. Tune in to KBTX 3 at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. every Thursday in July for a different On the Road destination:

July 5: Bryan  
July 12: Huntsville  
July 19: Burleson County  
July 26: Washington County

For Simple Summer Getaways Parts I & II highlighting more of the Brazos Valley, visit [www.insitegroup.com](http://www.insitegroup.com) for the May and June issues of Insite Magazine or call (979) 823-5567 to request additional copies.



**Museum.** Helen MacFarland, Society president, is proud that it is very well kept. Though “just an old house,” it has been restored to “the authentic period in which it was built” to be eligible for a historical marker. They had lots of folks “come in to give us their opinions and go under all the paint to see what color it originally was,” she laughs. The result, a stately white home trimmed in dark green with a white picket fence, is easy to spot.

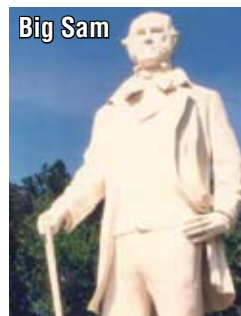
In addition to renting out the space for special events and bridge parties, as a working museum, the Kraitchar House also holds First Friday luncheons “select months throughout the year” and will likely hold one in September. Visitors can view some of the possessions – like recipe books or furniture – of the Kraitchar family who originally inhabited the house; also on display is a collection of old dresses from the Victorian period. It’s the kind of comfortable place where “ladies like to sit and talk,” says MacFarland.

MacFarland is also proud of Caldwell’s other museums, including the one located in the civic center on Hwy. 21 and the **Czech Heritage museum**. For information on themed tours of Burleson County’s many treasures, historical and otherwise, call the Chamber of Commerce.

Van DeWalle also recommends the **Copperas Hollow Country Club** to Caldwell visitors. This nine-hole private golf course allows out-of-town golfers to play. In less than 30 minutes, a B/CS golfer could be enjoying the “well-maintained course” and the “well-stocked Pro Shop” or teeing off at the regular nine-hole scrambles (every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. or the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m.).

## HUNTSVILLE

936-295-8113 or [huntsvilletexas.com](http://huntsvilletexas.com);  
[www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us](http://www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us)



The scenic, tree-lined Highway 30 drive to Huntsville, one of Texas’ oldest towns, is a journey into the piney woods of East Texas. Though less than an hour away, the change of scenery is a big departure from the Brazos Valley and makes for an interesting visit. You know you’ve arrived when you see “Big Sam,” the larger than life General

Sam Houston Statue subtitled “A Tribute to Courage.” The accompanying visitors’ center is always popular, says Kimm Thomas, of the Huntsville/Walker County Chamber of Commerce.

Huntsville’s state park ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/finadest/parks/huntsville/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/finadest/parks/huntsville/)) has canoeing, hiking and biking trails, horseback riding, camping facilities, and lake swimming. Local scuba divers may be familiar with **Blue Lagoon**, a stone quarry “fed by sparkling artesian springs” and used primarily by divers, located on FM 247 ([www.lone-star.net/mall/txtrails/huntsville.htm](http://www.lone-star.net/mall/txtrails/huntsville.htm)).

Sam Houston State University ([www.shsu.edu/](http://www.shsu.edu/)) is a pretty campus for strolling. While visiting, make sure to see the **Steamboat House** and the **Woodland House**, both inhabited by Sam Houston and his family and tour the spacious grounds, duck pond included.

Huntsville’s historic downtown square offers “a variety of antique shops and eateries,” like **The Café Texan** and **King’s Candy store**, where hungry children (and grown-ups) can order old-fashioned candy at the old-fashioned counter. Huntsville’s “warmth and hometown hospitality,” says Thomas, is also on display at the one-of-a-kind **New Zion Missionary Baptist Church Barbeque House** (936-295-2349), where the primitive decor complements the tasty food, known far and wide for its BBQ.

Certainly, the **Texas Prison Museum** (936-295-2155; [www.txprisonmuseum.org/](http://www.txprisonmuseum.org/)) isn’t a typical vacation hotspot, but Thomas recommends it to families with children, as an example of Huntsville’s rich history. Visitors can enjoy the displays of inventive inmate art or be suitably shocked by “Old Sparky,” a decommissioned electric chair.

For baseball fans, the **Stan Musial World Series** ([www.smwu.us](http://www.smwu.us)) has returned to Huntsville for the next five years. This tournament of the American Amateur Baseball Congress kicks off August 15 and runs through August 19. Tournament director Bob Maguire says, “The Stan Musial World Series is comprised of young men who have collegiate or professional baseball experience and want to continue their careers.”

## BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

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Baseball is also coming to the Brazos Valley in a big way. The **Brazos Valley Bombers**, of the Texas Collegiate League, debut this

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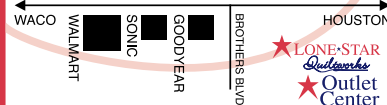
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Brazos Valley Bombers

summer in their inaugural season (979-779-PLAY; [www.bvbombers.com](http://www.bvbombers.com)). Local folks may not even recognize the refurbished **Travis Fields** in Bryan, now called **The Brazos Valley Bank Ballpark**. When asked what has most changed, general manager Mike Lieberman says, "In a word: everything." They have "literally upgraded everything at the ballpark" including the field, the stands (seating capacity has been doubled) and the concessions. The park boasts brand-new restrooms, a new 1600-square-foot party deck and even a new coat of paint on the grandstand.

Lieberman freely admits that it's been a huge endeavor but completely worth it.

The team takes its name from the "very first minor league baseball team in Bryan" that played back in 1947, 60 years ago this summer. They were called the Bryan Bombers, partly because of their proximity to the nearby airfield.

"When the idea of bringing baseball back to the Brazos Valley resurfaced it was just a natural name choice," says Lieberman. For people who don't think a sporting event is their cup of tea, Lieberman promises, "You don't need to know the first thing about baseball to come out and have a blast!"

"A Bombers game is fun for anybody and everybody," and is especially entertaining for families, since it offers "not just great baseball, though that is at the core, but much much more," including promotions and giveaways, on-field contests, music and food and "a wonderful welcoming staff."

Lieberman's goal is to provide something "different from what the community has seen before," and hopes that after each game, "more fans walk back to their cars and think, 'That was incredible. We've never had anything like that before. We've got to tell people about this!'"

The scene at a recent **First Friday** in downtown Bryan was balmy and idyllic ([www.downtownbryan.com](http://www.downtownbryan.com)). Couples strolled hand-in-hand, crisscrossing the streets to reach various participating businesses, like the **Parker-Astin Hardware store**, **Corner of Time antiques**, and perennial downtown favorite **EarthArt**. Jazz musicians played in the front lobby of the **Frame Gallery**, while adults sipped wine and children created their own art on the construction paper wall at the back. Families took carriage rides with the **Hidden Oasis Carriage Company** ([www.hiddenoasisranch.com](http://www.hiddenoasisranch.com)), departing from the lovely **LaSalle Hotel** courtyard, while crowds milled around the **Palace Theater** listening to music and revelers enjoyed refreshments in the **Revolution Café & Bar** outdoor eating area ([www.revolutioncafeandbar.com](http://www.revolutioncafeandbar.com)). First Friday's charm highlighted the many efforts that have gone into revitalizing the downtown area of Bryan, including the ambitious **Texas Reds festival** recently held in June.

Heather Reece, manager of communications for the **B/CS Convention & Visitors Bureau** says that Downtown Bryan "has really grown and matured" and recommends it to all visitors to the area. Its amazing food and unique shops will certainly be on display at upcoming First Fridays, July 6 and August 3, and at **Fiestas Patrias Mexicanas Day**,

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September 16.

Talent is also on display in downtown Bryan; catching dinner and a show is easier than ever, since the many tantalizing downtown dining opportunities complement local dramatic offerings ([www.downtownbryan.com/dining.shtml](http://www.downtownbryan.com/dining.shtml)), whether you want Italian, Mexican, Bistro or Fusion. One new tenant in downtown Bryan is **StageCenter Theatre** (979-823-4297; <http://www.stagecenter.net/>), which recently moved into the **3rd Floor Cantina**. Its upcoming show "**Four Dogs and a Bone, Comedy/Satire**" will play August 9-11, 16-18, 23-25.

For additional Broadway-style fare, **The Theatre Company** will present matinees and evening performances of the delightful musical "**Thoroughly Modern Millie**" on August 3-5 at its Bryan Tejas Center location. (For tickets, call 979-696-2787.)

The **Children's Museum** (979-779-KIDS; [www.mymuseum.com](http://www.mymuseum.com)), is also part of the Downtown scene, and offers kid programs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on First Fridays, in addition to the daytime hours. While the name of the museum and the piles of costumes and craft supplies make it clear that it's a place for kids, adults can rediscover their inner children at the **3rd Annual (adults-only) "Let's Have a Ball!"** night, to be held Friday, July 13: "Activities such as art contests, crafts, games, music, dancing, and MORE will entertain adults who choose to be kids again!" Call the museum for reservations; proceeds will benefit the museum's various programs.

There's a bargain to be had at the **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History** (979-776-2195; [bvmuseum.myriad.net](http://bvmuseum.myriad.net)). On the first Sunday of each month, they hold **Dollar Days**, and admission is, you guessed it, just \$1. Not bad, especially when you can enjoy exhibits like "**The Popular Art of Brazil**," showing through August 31, or take your children into the animal room to see all sorts of creepy, crawly creatures.

For all those who enjoy goin' muddin', a trip to **Soggy Bottom ATV Ranch** (on Highway 21 in Bryan) may be just the ticket (979-820-4500; [www.soggybottomatvranch.com/](http://www.soggybottomatvranch.com/)). The sprawling 1500 acres of trails promises plenty of mud and allows ATVs, dirtbikes, and trucks. There's also a private lake for swimming after time in the mud. Camping sites and other amenities are available, but the Ranch website's big pull is that you can, "Get as dirty as you want without the spouse knowing 'cause showers are now available!" Don't miss their All American Picnic at the Lake on July 7.



Brazos Valley Symphony

On a more refined note, the **Brazos Valley Symphony** will perform at the **George Bush Presidential Library and Museum's** annual **4th of July festivities**, presenting a patriotic musical backdrop before the evening's fireworks, says Mia Zwolinski, Brazos Valley Symphony Society interim office manager. Traditionally, the Symphony performs outside the Museum around 8 p.m. Friends of the Symphony will also hold a Membership Party in August; details are available by calling the office (979-779-6100). To start your Independence Day with fun, check out the **July 4th Celebration at Adamson Lagoon** (979-764-3540; [www.cstx.gov](http://www.cstx.gov)) For additional swimming pool events – and they are plentiful in Bryan, College Station, Huntsville and Brenham – see the May 2007

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George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Insite Magazine at [www.insitegroup.com](http://www.insitegroup.com).

Although the **George Bush Presidential Library and Museum** is undergoing major renovations through the fall of 2007, some exhibits are still available to the public including the exquisite **"White House in Miniature"** (979-691-4000; [bushlibrary.tamu.edu/](http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/)). Also, a walk through the gorgeously landscaped grounds is always refreshing, even on a hot August day.

Another way to cool off might include sampling the selection at the weekly **WineStyles** wine tasting in College Station (979-260-3803; [www.winestyles.net/bcs](http://www.winestyles.net/bcs)), held on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. or by driving out to the grounds of our local gem, **Messina Hof** winery ([www.messinahof.com](http://www.messinahof.com)). Messina Hof's selection and ambience are unparalleled in the community. Visiting an art gallery would nicely accompany such sophistication, and Heather Reece reminds folks that summer is a fantastic time to visit the galleries at Texas A&M: "There's still some student life, but it's not crazy or hectic." There are also art exhibits scattered throughout town.

The **Arts Council of the Brazos Valley** website (979-696-2787; [acbv.org](http://acbv.org)) offers an interactive map of public art. The Council also shares an exhaustive list of events happening around town, such as the exhibit **"The Art of the Stamp"** on display at The **J. Wayne Stark Center Galleries** through July 27 (979-845-6081; [stark.tamu.edu/](http://stark.tamu.edu/)). They also offer information about the **MSC Forsyth Center Galleries**, like the **"Hot Stuff! Heat Reactive Glass"** exhibit that runs through August 20 (979-845-9251; [forsyth.tamu.edu/](http://forsyth.tamu.edu/)), as well as a host of other recitals and art shows.

And while **The Texas A&M Sports Museum**, located in **The Zone at Kyle Field** and free of charge to visitors, may not have art on its walls, the **Timewall** and interactive computers will immediately engage those who visit ([www.aggieathletics.com](http://www.aggieathletics.com)).

A unique new group on the local cultural scene is the **Armstrong/Bergeron Dance Company** (204-1932; [Abdance.org](http://Abdance.org)), and they will perform at the **Brazos Contemporary Dance Festival**, July 13 and 14 at the **StageCenter Community Theatre**. On July 21, Carisa Armstrong, one of the founders of the Armstrong/Bergeron Dance Company will teach ballroom dancing from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., also at StageCenter; the instruction will be followed by a free dance until 9 p.m.

On August 2 at 7 p.m., the duo will perform their work that was accepted into the New York International Fringe Festival at "Sketching



Armstrong/Bergeron Dance Company



## HORSESHOE JUNCTION

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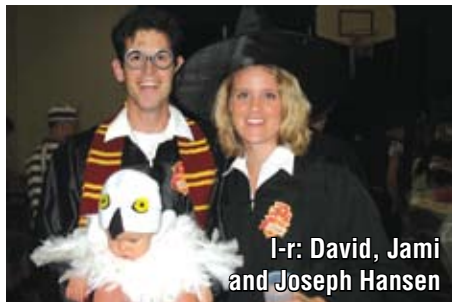
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Dance," held in Texas A&M's READ 263.

Of course, for more than one resident of our community (adults and children alike), the high point of the summer will be July 21, the day *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows* is released. The Bryan Public Library's party, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with a costume contest, a sorting hat ceremony and a magical demonstration from the Chemistry department, will wow even us Muggles. An added bonus: the 25 copies of the new book available for checkout from the library.



l-r: David, Jami  
and Joseph Hansen

## WASHINGTON-ON- THE-BRAZOS

(936-878-2214; [www.birthplaceoftexas.com](http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com))

Residents of the Brazos Valley are fortunate to live in such close proximity to the Washington-on-the-Brazos state historic site, located in nearby Washington County. There is something quite stirring about celebrating Independence Day on the grounds of the last capital of the Republic of Texas with HEB's "Fireworks on the Brazos," and the tasty refreshments don't hurt either.

Although the state park isn't just a destination for field trips, many people who grew up in the area may remember visiting the park on a school bus in their younger days. The park's "School Daze: Education in early Texas" August festivities, held on Saturdays and Sundays, may even bring back a few of those good old school memories. All sites within the park, including *Barrington Living History Farm* (936-878-2213) and *Star of the Republic Museum* (936-878-2214), will offer free admission to teachers. Kids may learn a thing or two about what learning was like in the 1850s. *i*



Barrington Living History Farm

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## Profiles OF SUCCESS

### Profiles OF SUCCESS

## Paramount Property Analysts

**P**aramount Property Analysts was founded in 1992 to provide professional appraisal and real estate counseling services. Centrally located in Bryan, the company's territory covers all of Texas and most of the Southern United States. The mission of the company is to provide a credible opinion of value delivered in a timely manner maintaining integrity, honesty, professionalism, punctuality, and ethical behavior throughout the ever-changing appraisal process.

Brian M. Stephen, owner of the firm, has been engaged in evaluating various types of real estate. Stephen has been a practicing real estate appraiser and consultant since 1984. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Sam Houston

State University. His qualifications include MAI designation of the Appraisal Institute, certified general real estate appraiser, licensed property tax consultant and a licensed real estate broker in the state of Texas.

The staff of Paramount Property



Analysts has developed the expertise to analyze all types of real property. Services include commercial & residential appraisals, property tax consulting, investment counseling, feasibility, and studies for such purposes as mortgage loan, estate planning, investment analysis, and condemnation purposes.

Stephen is a licensed property tax consultant and combines his expertise in the appraisal field with his hands-on property management and ownership experience to provide the

highest quality tax reduction service offered today. Stephen has saved clients thousands of dollars on investment properties and has a very high success rate.

The commercial division of Paramount Property Analysts specializes in appraisals of special purpose properties and farm and ranch valuation. Other areas of expertise include multi-family, retail, office, industrial and raw land valuation services. The residential division specializes in appraising one to four unit residential properties including owner occupied, investor owned, and REO single family dwellings, duplexes, four-plexes and vacant lots.

"We understand time is of the essence," says Stephen, "and when an order is executed, we hit the ground running so that you receive the appraisal in a timely manner. Paramount combines state-of-the-art technology with hands-on experience and good old fashioned work ethics to deliver an unmatched appraisal product."

For more information, contact Paramount Property Analysts at (979) 776-8999 or visit [www.ppabv.com](http://www.ppabv.com).



## Holley's Window Fashions and Interiors...

*Making the Brazos Valley beautiful one window at a time*

**R**ich textures, luxurious fabrics, innovative ideas...all are available in abundance at Holley's Window Fashions and Interiors in College Station. Owner Barbara Holley has seen her business expand far beyond her expectations. The growth is due partly to a great location and incredible product lines, but mostly due to the ability to provide the best custom designs coupled with unsurpassed customer service.

Realizing the growth potential in the Brazos Valley, Barbara designed a first class showroom to highlight the fine Hunter Douglas products she has to offer residents of the area. In today's age of home product technology, the possibilities for unique home décor are limitless. In her showroom, Barbara has wisely arranged a wide variety of shutters, blinds and draperies from which to choose throughout the store, making it easy for customers to decide which ones best suit their lifestyles and needs.

"The Hunter Douglas products I carry in the store are phenomenal," says Barbara. "Their product designs take practicality as well as decorating appeal into account. I choose to carry products that people can be proud to have in their homes and offices."

In fact, Hunter Douglas boasts the Product Innovation of the Year award winner in the window covering industry. The company's popular Duette (reg. symbol) Honeycomb shades continue to be one of their best sellers as well. Barbara is also excited to offer their motorized window coverings for ease of use and functionality. Motorized shades and draperies are very popular, and Holley's has become the expert for motorized window treatments in the Brazos Valley.

Product lines and selection are not the only important things to consider.

Holley's Window Fashions and Interiors has the only Hunter Douglas master certified shutter installer between the Houston and Dallas areas. Barbara wants to make

*“There seems to be a blending of contemporary and traditional styles that result in a classy, understated look that is both elegant as well as modern.”*

sure installation is properly done and that customers are able to get the full warranties on the products they choose.

Barbara's sense of style and innovative design capabilities enable her to have a unique perspective. For this reason, Hunter Douglas asked her to be on their steering



committee for new product development. "This is quite an honor," said Barbara. Holley's Window Fashions and Interiors has also been recently chosen as the Hunter Douglas Builder Provider in the Brazos Valley area. This program was created to help builders in the area add value to the homes they build with the addition of window treatments.

Despite the popularity of Hunter

Douglas products, traditional draperies and bedding are still in vogue. Barbara believes in keeping up with trends, while utilizing timeless designs. "Currently, more clean lines and contemporary styles are coming into play in interior design," explains Barbara.

"There seems to be a blending of contemporary and traditional styles that result in a classy, understated look that is both elegant as well as modern".

At Holley's Window Fashions and Interiors, Barbara proudly carries exclusive fabric lines including Tapestry and Bella Rose bedding. The Bella Rose collection offers a custom look with a turn-around time of just a few days. The bedding has extra long drops and luxurious features usually found only in custom made bedding and accessories.

Consulting for new homes, remodels and redecorating have become an important part of business at Holley's. Barbara and her associates can do single room or whole house makeovers. We will go in and use what someone already has, or add artwork, accessories, greenery, and floral arrangements.

"When you customize your house to your personality, it truly becomes a home," explains Barbara. "The extra details make the difference. We like to create unique designs for each customer. We may repeat a theme or develop designs for window treatments that mimic a shape found in the architecture or furniture in the room. That cohesive look is both stylish and sophisticated."

As for the future of the growing company, Barbara is optimistic. "Referrals are a key to the success of any business, and mine is no exception. Customers continue to send business our way, and I'm very grateful."

For more information, please call (979) 690-8889 or email holleyswfi@msn.com.

### Classic Realty GMAC Real Estate

Since 1978, Classic Realty has enthusiastically served the real estate needs of clients and customers in Bryan/College Station and the surrounding areas. All agents at the firm are members of the Texas and National Association of Realtors®, the Bryan/College Station Regional Association of Realtors® and Multiple Listing Service, and the GMAC Relocation Network. The firm is a member of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau, and the Employee Relocation Council.

Recent national surveys conducted by an independent service company revealed that Classic Realty, Inc./GMAC Real Estate has a 95% customer satisfaction rating, one of the best in the business. As one of the largest real estate firms in the area, Classic Realty takes great pride in this high rating. "This truly reflects the quality of our family of agents. They really do try harder!" states Brenton Riethmayer, broker and vice president of sales at Classic Realty/GMAC Real Estate.

"At Classic Realty, 'Premier Service' is a lifestyle," states Trey Thurmond, broker and president of the firm. "We believe that through our affiliation with GMAC Real Estate, we significantly insure our ability to provide premier service backed by one of the strongest brands in the world, GMAC. But, to enhance that great benefit, we always strive to remember our roots and to maintain a local focus."

Trey has been active in real estate for almost 30 years. He is a past REALTOR® Association President and a past REALTOR® of the Year. He is a graduate of the Realtor

Institute (GRI), a Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager (CRB) and Quality

*"We are especially proud of the fact that one-third of our agents achieved the coveted 100% customer satisfaction rating in 2006 for service. That is phenomenal."*

Service Certified. "At GMAC Real Estate, our resources establish and foster life-long relationships with customers and clients. From the first contact to the closing table and beyond, we do our utmost to provide the best service possible. We call it 'Premier Service', says Thurmond. "We are especially proud of the fact that one-third of our agents achieved the coveted 100% customer satisfaction rating in 2006 for service. That is phenomenal."

Brent Riethmayer, who has been a Realtor for 15 years, is a past president of the local Multiple Listing Service and is also a past REALTOR® of the Year. He is currently serving as the 2007 president of the Bryan/College Station Regional Association of REALTORS®, and has a weekly informative article in a local newspaper.

Riethmayer is quick to point out the extensive training programs at the company. "At Classic Realty, we truly do offer some of the most comprehensive training opportunities in the area. This helps to ensure our clients will be working with competent and knowledgeable REALTORS® who have the resources necessary to provide premier service. We realize service is the key to building long-lasting relationships in Bryan/College Station. We also know how overwhelming the real estate business can be not only to consumers, but also to new agents. We dedicate ourselves to providing the knowledge, tools, training, and staff sup-

port they need to move ahead quickly!"

Trey and Brent have both traveled across the nation over the past 8 yrs, putting together the most comprehensive training

programs based on listening to the best-of-the-best in the business. "We take their ideas and modify them for our local market, including the five common denominators we've discovered that all accomplished trainers and successful Realtors have in common," says Riethmayer. Classic Realty has weekly training sessions and one-on-one coaching which involves guiding new agents on building practical, profitable, long term careers, along with information/ idea exchange which helps all agents get a jump start in this profession.

"We are surprised and delighted to discover some of our more seasoned agents request to attend the group training sessions to refresh and improve themselves! We have found this to be a huge benefit to agents both new and seasoned. Seasoned agents bring the voice of experience to the table while

the newer agents often have new methods or approaches," remarked Thurmond

"Almost forty five combined years of serving the Brazos Valley has taught us the value and importance of a well trained, high integrity agent focused on providing the best service in a positive work environment which has a competitive yet family feel" agreed both Brent and Trey, co-owners.

To find out more, or to help you with your real estate needs, contact Classic Realty Inc/ GMAC Real Estate at [classicreal@txcycler.com](mailto:classicreal@txcycler.com) or by phone (979) 694-8844. You can also visit their web page at [www.classicgm.com](http://www.classicgm.com). Offices are located at 3600 Highway 6 South in College Station between Rock Prairie Road and Deacon.





### Dr. Royal Benson, III

*Cutting edge procedures, personalized care*

**P**ersonal, attentive care...it's been the cornerstone of Dr. Royal Benson's Brazos Valley practice for over a decade. Dr. Benson, a mainstay in health-care in Bryan/College Station for 15 years, is currently celebrating the 10th anniversary of his solo practice.

"I'm pleased that through the years so many patients have chosen the Benson OB/Gyn Center for their obstetrical and gynecological needs," says Dr. Benson. "I'm honored they've decided to entrust me with their medical care."

Royal H. Benson, III, M.D. graduated from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine, in Lubbock, Texas, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He completed his internship and residency at St. Paul Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Benson is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and is a member of the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, the Brazos-Robertson County Medical Society, the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons, the Association of American Gynecologic Laparoscopists, the International Society of Cosmetogynecology, the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgeons, the Society of Aesthetic Gynecologists, the Society of Texas Cosmetic Surgeons, and the American Society of Liposuction Surgery.

Through the years, Dr. Benson's services have been specifically designed to meet patients' needs in obstetrics and gynecology by emphasizing the importance of not only physical well-being, but also emotional comfort and health. An important aspect of his independent practice is that it allows patients to see the same doctor at each visit, not the "doctor on call" or an associate. (Dr. Benson has also been able to do 97% of his own deliveries since 1997.) This type of individual attention helps Dr. Benson docu-

ment a thorough health history of patients in order to promote total health and well being. Dr. Benson's specialty is giving each of his patients personalized care, and he is committed to utilizing the latest proven technology the medical industry has to offer.

*"I have based my entire practice on providing quality, compassionate and convenient care for my patients."*

Services offered by Dr. Benson range from routine examinations to state-of-the-art surgical procedures. Dr. Benson is pleased to be able to offer the latest minimally invasive surgical procedures to his patients.



For example, he has been performing laparoscopic surgery since 1985, has extensive training and experience in the field, and has attended numerous training programs for advanced laparoscopic surgery. These procedures are designed to offer significant benefits to his patients, including

technique that provides surgeons with an alternative to both traditional open surgery and conventional laparoscopy by putting a surgeon's hands at the controls of a state-of-the-art robotic platform. Benefits of the procedure include a shorter hospital stay, less pain after surgery, less scarring and a lower risk of infection. The da Vinci® Surgical System has also proven to decrease blood loss and promote faster recovery times.

One of the latest procedures Dr. Benson has introduced at his Copperfield Drive location is Tumescant Liposuction, now considered to be the safest form of liposuction. The procedure can remove large amounts of fat with virtually no blood loss. It is less painful, has minimized post operative recovery time, and has produced optimal cosmetic results in most patients. Dr. Benson also performs "in-office" tummy tucks and breast augmentation.

Dr. Benson has implemented other beneficial treatments and regimens for men and women including traditional weight loss programs, as well as laser treatments for weight loss and smoking cessation. His office is equipped to do ultrasound, urodynamics, fetal monitoring, and labwork. The latest medical advances combined with a caring staff and a beautiful office setting make for a pleasant experience.

"I have based my entire practice on providing quality, compassionate and convenient care for my patients," explains Dr. Benson. "I will continue to provide state-of-the-art treatments and procedures, and I'm especially pleased to have the opportunity to utilize the facilities available at all three of the fine hospitals in our area. I look forward to a long and happy professional future in Bryan/College Station."

For more information visit [www.drroyalbenson.com](http://www.drroyalbenson.com), or to schedule an appointment, please call 776-1660.



less bleeding, less post-operative pain and a much quicker recovery from surgery.

Dr. Benson has also recently been trained to do robotic surgery at The Med using the da Vinci® Surgical System, a new

### Besco Custom Jewelers

**B**eautiful, sparkling, dazzling...all are words that describe the creations of Brett Edmondson, owner of Besco Jewelers. A master of design and artistry, Brett has completed unique creations for Brazos Valley area residents for over 24 years.

Brett worked his way up the ranks of the jewelry industry through an apprenticeship program at BTM Jewelers, a prestigious manufacturing trade shop in Central Texas that supplied over seventy retail jewelry stores full trade services.

In late 1983, Brett decided that he would go into business for himself. During the next decade, he trained five apprentices and serviced as many as 28 retail stores simultaneously. The nineties arrived, and Brett's interests took a turn from trade work. He started dealing more and more with individual customers.

"People were coming to me and asking if we could design this ring or get a particular

quality of diamond for them," says Brett. "I found that not only could I get the diamonds they wanted, but I could offer them at prices that were far less than the retailers in town."

Building on his new-found career, he developed Besco's DiamondFind™ service. "It allows our customers to find diamonds that meet their specifications,

rather than having to choose a stone from the small inventories carried by retail stores," explains Brett.

Besco also brought computer aided jewelry design to the Brazos Valley and remains the foremost CAD jewelry designer in the area. Brett and staff also developed many of the Texas A&M charm and seal jewelry designs people buy today. He continues his training in Philadelphia and Chicago studying with some of the top jewelers in the country.

"I consider myself a craftsman," Brett explains, "never wanted to be a salesman, I really enjoy creating unique items. Not a day goes by that we are not involved in the creation of a piece of fine jewelry for another happy customer. I appreciate them choosing Besco to help them celebrate such important life events."

Today, Besco continues making the world a more beautiful place one piece of jewelry at a time. For more information, call Brett at (979) 764-8558 or visit [www.bescojewelers.com](http://www.bescojewelers.com)



### facelogic

**V**isiting a day spa can be daunting for someone who is new to the spa world – there are often too many options to choose from and the exorbitant service prices make you feel guilty for wanting to take care of your skin and body. Skincare and spa services are extremely beneficial to the body and the well-being of the individual that prices shouldn't deter consumers from exploring the spa world. As an experienced professional in the beauty industry for more than sixteen years, Brenda Musia knew the importance of professional skincare and was ready to take the leap with her own venture. Enter - facelogic Spa – a unique spa franchise concept that is dedicated to providing affordable luxury in a non-intimidating environment.

Brenda found facelogic on a visit to Waco, TX, experienced the high-quality signature

facial and decided that this was exactly the concept that was missing in the Brazos Valley – affordable luxury. Her passion for helping people and making them feel good about

themselves was just the confirmation that Brenda needed to take the necessary steps to open her own facelogic location. Brenda opened the doors to the Brazos Valley facelogic Spa location in December of 2006 and has experienced significant success and gratitude from the community.

A long-time resident of the Brazos Valley, Brenda knew that a unique spa concept like facelogic would be perfect for her community. Since opening her spa in December Brenda's passion and determination to have the best spa in the Brazos Valley has led her to make smart business decisions that are benefiting her employees, her guests and the spa. As a hard worker, she recently enrolled in esthetic school and after completing her esthetic training, Brenda will be able to fulfill her dream of servicing her growing guest clientele.

Brenda Musia continues to demonstrate her passion for helping others, growing facelogic and providing quality spa services to residents of the Brazos Valley. The facelogic concept is filling a true void in the industry and she is excited about the benefit of her spa in the community.

Visit facelogic at 3525-G Longmire Drive in College Station, or call (979) 693-2600 for an appointment.





## Play It Again Sports

**T**he philosophy behind Play It Again Sports is to give customers exceptional value by letting them create their own discount by trading in used equipment and trading up to newer sports or fitness equipment. It's a market niche that works so well the store has twice been named Best in the Brazos Valley and the best local sporting goods store in the B/CS Eagle's reader survey. Since the store opened 14 years ago, the trade-in, trade-up concept has been especially appreciated by area parents who watch their kids grow through sporting equipment at a rapid rate.

But did you know that 90 percent of the sports and fitness equipment at Play It Again Sports is new? That they provide in-store service on all the new fitness equipment they sell? That they have the largest selection of used golf equipment in the Brazos Valley?

Or that they sell and fit new golf clubs and have a Cleveland fitting station and a golf cage where you can try out your drive under the educated eye of owner David Olson, an avid golfer whose background includes running a golf course and working with golf pros?

Lining the shelves at Play It Again Sports are all the otherwise hard-to-find items enthusiasts from a huge array of sports and fitness activities need to work up a sweat. Need a squash racquet? No problem. Prefer tennis or racquetball? They've got those too, and with your purchase, they will string your new racket at no additional cost. For rugby, hockey or lacrosse (the fastest growing sport in the U.S. for the last three years) Olson and his trained staff have you covered. Disc golf has seen tremendous local growth with courses and competitions at the Research

Park, Lemon Tree and Wolf Pen courses and Play It Again Sports has what you need to take a flying leap into the sport. In the four years since Olson has been owner/operator, he has worked closely with coaches in boxing and martial arts to make sure he stocks the specialty items needed in those sports.

Play It Again Sports also stocks equipment for traditional sports like soccer, basketball, baseball and softball including being the only local dealer for COMBAT composite bats.

Even with the wide array of sports and fitness products on hand, if you need of something they don't stock they still have you covered: "There is never an additional charge for special orders," says Olson.

But what makes customers come back time and again is

Play It Again Sports' customer service. At discount and big box stores, you're lucky to find an employee to ask a question and they may not even know how to turn on that fitness trainer you're interested in. Olson and his trained staff, including store manager Tommy Wagner, are knowledgeable; most importantly, they want to help customers make a sports or fitness purchase that will meet their personal goals.

"We ask customers what their goal is" when they are looking for fitness equipment, says Olson. "If the goal is to lose weight, that treadmill they bought last year isn't the best choice," he says. "For cardio or fat burning you want to look at – and try – one of our dual action bikes or an elliptical trainer. If your goal is to walk indoors, then you do want to try a treadmill."

From yoga and Bosu balls to free weights and Bow Flex machines, Play It Again Sports wants you to sit down or step up and try out the equipment. Experience and helping customers make smart buys are Olson and his staff's personal and business philosophies. It goes hand-in-hand with their commitment to community service through support of events like the KAMU public radio and television auctions and St. Jude Hospital's Children's Network.

Most of all, they want their customers to have fun. It's why during their twice-a-year Balloon Sales your pick-and-pop discount might be your age – or your shoe size! It's all about satisfied customers and all about fun – that's because it's Play It Again Sports.



### Trish Thornton Havel

**T**he dedication that Trish Thornton Havel put into her 22 years of educating children locally, is the same dedication that she now puts into her career in real estate. After graduating from Texas A&M in 1983, Trish began her career in teaching. Her job as an educator in Bryan ISD's HOSTS (Help One Student To Succeed) program included networking with hundreds of businesses and organizations, and thousands of individuals to find mentors to work each week with students in reading. With her heart still dedicated to helping students, she stays informed on the new things that are happening within our schools. Trish's vast experience in networking and her personal knowledge of our local school system have been assets to her success as a real estate professional.

Born and raised in the Bryan-College Station area, Trish has seen this community change dramatically. Trish welcomes the change . . . "Somewhere in the past ten to fifteen years, our secret got out. So many people are discovering what many of us knew already –

that Bryan-College Station is a wonderful place to live!" When newcomers arrive to the area, Trish enjoys helping them become familiar with what the area has to offer. Her goal is to help her clients find just the right home, one that will fit their needs, their personality, and their lifestyle.

Buying or selling a home is one of the most important financial decisions that we make. "Not only are we making a financial investment when purchasing a home, but we are also making a personal investment as well. Some parts of the buying or selling process can at times, be very

emotional. I think it is important to deal with those issues and with people from the heart" says Trish.

Those who know Trish personally, know that she puts her heart into everything that she does. Her concern and compassion for others and her dedication to her job, keep her committed to her clients throughout the entire real estate process. That dedicated effort is what has earned Trish the Diamond Premier Service Award for providing superior customer service to home buyers and sellers. When it comes to buying or selling real

estate . . . Trish is truly committed to bringing her clients "home with a smile"!



### Blue Baker

**O**nce again, Blue Baker poses the question, "How blue are you?" This time, it's from their new location off of University Drive in College Station. The bakery café, which has become locally famous for feeding blue people for free, has opened the new location for added customer convenience. They've added new products including oils and cheeses, but still offer the tried and true menu items they're famous for.

"We're trying to provide our customers with new products that maybe they don't even know they want yet," explains Marc Deer, Executive Vice President. "By giving out samples of our unique products, we hope to provide our customers with an experience they'll enjoy and want to share with others."

All products at both Blue Baker locations

are baked fresh daily from scratch. It's a lot more work, and even adds to the company's costs, but it's well worth it. The product quality is unmatched, and this is what customers of Blue Baker have come to expect.



A key ingredient to the company's continued success has been the staff assembled throughout the years. "We definitely wouldn't have survived the first few years had

it not been for the hard work and dedication of our staff," says Owner Dave Fox.

The staff at both Blue Baker locations is serious when it comes to artisan baking. Breads, bagels, croissants, pastries and cookies are hand made every day. Something from the bakery is found in each and every dish prepared at Blue Baker including soup served in sourdough bread bowls, sandwiches made on artisan breads, and salads presented in parmesan cheese bowls.

Dave is quick to share his good fortune. For the past two years, the café has held Cookies for Kids day, from which all proceeds of cookie sales for the day are given to Children's Miracle Network and St. Joseph Regional Health Center.

"This is my small way of giving back," says Fox. "We plan to be here a very long time, so we look at it as an investment in our community."

For a fresh, delicious, healthy and quick alternative, stop by Blue Baker at 800 University Dr. East or 201 Dominik Drive, both in College Station, or call in your delivery order at (979) 696-5055.



### MacResource

**W**hether you cruise the Apple blogs and are following the rumors of a Leopard rollout later this year, or are a lifetime PC user who just wants to know how to come in from the dark side, MacResource in Bryan is a place you need to visit. Or maybe you immediately grasp the uber-cool world of iPods and Nanos, but don't want to be either ignored in a big-box store or drowned in Geek Speak as you check out the wider world of Apple products. MacResource is still the place to start.

For both those new to the world of Apple computers and products and the dedicated lifers, the computer professionals at locally owned MacResource offer both new and refurbished Apple products and it is the only locally authorized Apple reseller that has an on-site service center. With more than 50 years combined experience servicing computers among the 12 MacResource employees, MacResource can provide both warranty and non-warranty repairs and service for a huge range of products, from desktops to laptops to iPods and network servers.

MacResource owners Buckey and Carolyn Turk just celebrated their second anniversary in their expanded showroom location on Texas Avenue in Bryan. Their business success over the past 14 years has been well documented. MacResource was named a Top 10 Winner in the Aggie 100 awards in 2005 and a top 20 Winner in 2006, recognized as a superior Aggie owned and operated business by Texas A&M University. MacResource was again recently named a Bryan Rotary Club Newman 10 Business Award winner—the fifth time they have won — recognized as one of the fastest growing businesses in the Brazos Valley.

"Shoppers want personal service and the same technicians to be there next week and next year," says Carolyn. "Brazos Valley

town and helps everyone to grow.

"Big chains won't help. If we're not here you will have to drive to Austin or Houston or hang on the phone with tech support in some far away place," says Carolyn.

"Everything we sell, both new and refurbished equipment, comes with a warranty. Our technicians have the Apple certifications that allow them to work on anything.

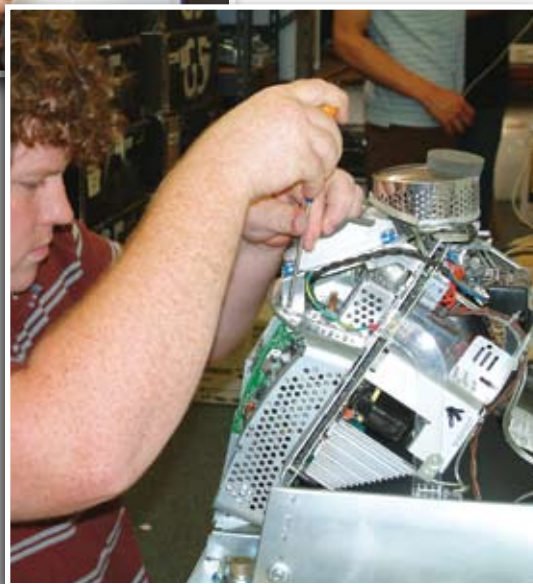
"The iPod may draw in PC users with its cool techno factor, and invariably, PC people want to know why people keep talking about Macs," says Carolyn. "We tell them to come on in and test drive a Mac today. The new Macs have Windows capability so we especially suggest you do all you online needs on a Mac and avoid all the bugs."

Visit Buckey, Carolyn or any of the tech staff at MacResource and ask them about all the latest products, including Mac's new Intel chips. MacResource is located at 3828 S. Texas Avenue in Bryan (across from Buddy's Brazos Appliance) or visit them on the web at [www.MacResource.com](http://www.MacResource.com). Call MacResource at (979) 314-0535.



residents need to realize they have a locally owned option that offers the same products and warranty as online shopping and chain stores with the bonus of personal service for all shoppers. MacResource is also the Authorized Education Reseller for Texas A&M University, which means we offer educational pricing for Texas A&M students, staff and faculty.

"It's an added benefit to everyone when people shop locally; that money stays here in



### Medi-Care Equipment Specialties

*The Superstore of Medical Equipment & Supplies*

**Y**ou may have visited Medi-Care Equipment Specialties at the Senior Expo and played Spin the Bottle promoting "Feel Good, Look Good." Choosing the right medical equipment or supplies is more than fun and games. The personnel at Medi-Care Equipment are trained professionals able to guide you through bandages and braces to maternity and newborn, hospital beds, and equipment that help the mobility impaired or those with respiratory problems. They strive to provide the appropriate equipment for your needs in the most economical manner. An added benefit is they file all the necessary paperwork with Medicare or insurance.

Opening May 2005 in Bryan, Medi-Care Equipment Specialties began in Brenham in 1981 and expanded to Tomball in 1995. All stores are accredited (beginning 1991) by the Joint Commission of Healthcare Organizations just like hospitals. This insures the privacy

of patient information, cleanliness of rental equipment and instruction on equipment use. Whether it is diabetic monitoring or colostomy management, they provide instruction to the patient or family on how to use the equipment. Customers can rely on their outstanding reputation for honesty, product knowledge and professionalism, and quality of service.

One of the latest advancements in medical equipment is in the technology used in respiratory equipment. Oxygen concentrators and small gaseous tanks has been the mainstay provider. There is the HELIOS liquid oxygen system which weighs only 3.6 lbs. and now there is SeQual Eclipse which is

the world's first small, lightweight, battery operated AD/DC, continuous flow oxygen concentrator. The Inogen One is the first portable oxygen system designed to provide unparalleled freedom for the active oxygen

user even when traveling. Medi-Care Equipment has two full-time Certified Respiratory Therapists on staff, Carol Gaskamp, CRT, RCP and Dee Bailey, CRT, RCP. They work closely with the physician to ensure the individual's understanding of his or her prescription and continued compliance to encourage a

more active and mobile lifestyle.

Medi-Care Equipment Specialties is open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The company also offers 24-hour emergency call. Visit Medi-Care Equipment Specialties at 2308 E. Villa Maria to see what is available, or call (979) 776-3776.



### Brazos Valley Bank

**W**hen searching for a bank to simplify finances, a clear choice is Brazos Valley Bank. The personalized service exemplifies your local hometown bank with all the capabilities and services of banks in much larger cities. Longtime-resident, Sanders Letbetter, will greet you at the door with a smiling face and warm wishes (pictured right).

The staff at Brazos Valley Bank, the only bank chartered in College Station, takes pride in exemplary customer service. Bill Wantuck, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the bank, explains the bank's philosophy, "We are the bank that likes to say 'yes.' If it can be done, we will get it done."

Steve Harper, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bill Wantuck, Executive

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Don Barber, Chief Lending Officer and Executive Vice President, and Terry Cearley, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking and Deposit Operations, comprise the Executive Officers of the bank (pictured below).

Wantuck says that some lenders may take weeks to approve loans, but Brazos Valley

Commercial Lending, Veronica Mitchell, Vice President Mortgage and Commercial Lending, and Eduardo Prado, Assistant Vice President Commercial Lending. Lindsay Green, Assistant Vice President Customer Relations, and Greg Chavarria, Assistant Vice President Accounting Operations, rounds out the professional team of officers.

President Steve Harper states, "I'm excited about Brazos Valley Bank's role in the future of

Bryan-College Station. Continued growth and development will be a key factor influencing the community's prosperity. We will continue to be here, ready and willing to serve our customers."

The bank is located at 4030 Highway 6 South, at Graham Road, in College Station. An additional branch will be opening in Bryan, off of William J. Bryan and Highway 6, at 2112 West Briargate Drive, this fall. Call (979) 690-BANK(2265) for more information.



Bank prides itself in quick loan decisions. This enables the customer to have the convenience they deserve. Lending specialists are Scott Hennigar, Senior Vice President Lending, and Lance Lindsey, Vice President





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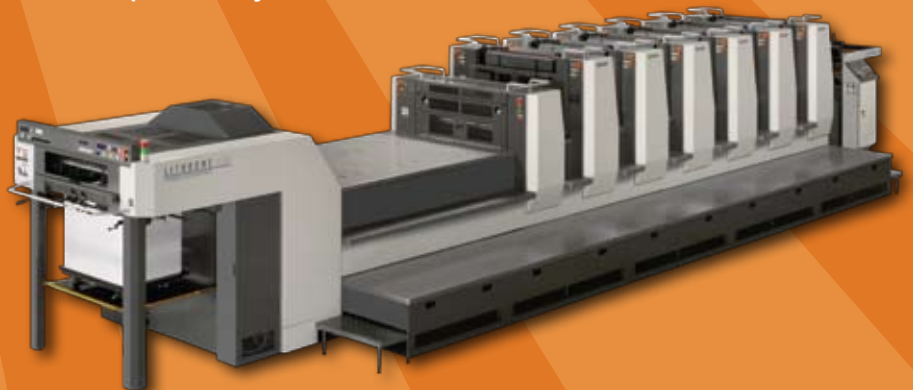
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## Long time in the making... Brazos County Expo Center Prepares for Debut Event

**M**aybe they should rename the Brazos County Exposition Complex “Phoenix” to describe its ascent from the ashes of a near-death. Early detractors dickered over the land and dastardly increases in construction costs slowed the project along the way, but now construction on the multi-use venue at 5827 Leonard Road is expected to wrap up in August with the first event set for mid-month.

“We have three different facilities with three different opening dates, but soon it will all be fully operational,” says Lora Chapman, the complex’s marketing, sales and scheduling coordinator. Chapman, previously the scheduler and coordinator for the Brazos Center, is working to attract rodeos, livestock shows, horse shows and other types of dirt events, as well as business meetings, banquets, conventions and trade shows to the complex.

The first event, the Texas A&M Saddle and Sirloin Club’s Steer, Heifer and Pig Futurity, is set for mid-August. Starting in September, there are horse shows, banquets, meetings and trade shows scheduled.

On October 19-20, the Napa Car Wars Nationals plans to be in the arena.

Events scheduled for the exhibit hall include the Bryan/College Station Homebuilders Association’s 2008 Home and Garden Show and wedding receptions.

Tom Quarles, Brazos County’s special event facilities director, brings to his position more than 20 years experience overseeing the 1.4 million-square-foot Reliant Stadium and overseeing construction of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo’s office space. After retiring, he and his wife moved to their ranch in North Zulch. He worked for about 18 months as operations manager of Post Oak Mall, and then accepted a job as director of the Madison County Economic Development Corporation. Six months into that job, he accepted the Brazos County position.

Quarles says to attract the larger shows would probably require an addition, and that there is room for expansion on the site’s 150-plus acres. “It wouldn’t take a lot to get there, but we have to get up and running with what we have first,” he says.

The current complex was several years

in the making, with land disputes and scrapped designs along the way. An \$18.5 million bond issue narrowly passed in November 2000, solidifying more than two decades of discussion, planning and study by a 10-member committee. The county then battled the Bienski family for the 159-acre plot in West Bryan. In 2001 the county condemned the property and offered the family about \$1 million, but a two-year legal battle culminated in a \$1.5-million settlement. A 14-month wetlands mitigation process ordered by the Corps of Engineers delayed progress further. That pushed the groundbreaking from the planned date of October 2003 to February 2004. A week later, voters shot down a proposed hotel tax that would have funded a \$4.5 million assembly hall at the complex.

Construction costs – particularly for steel and concrete – caused planners to pare down the project’s scope. Initial plans called for a 5,700-seat coliseum, but budget constraints prompted by increased construction costs put that portion of the complex on hold. Instead, architect Jim Singleton increased the seating capacity in the covered arena from 500 to





3,000 to help accommodate larger shows.

Randy Sims, Brazos County judge since 2003, says he never doubted the center would come to fruition. "It was going to happen, it was just a matter of the makeup of it," he says. "We ran into quite a few obstacles between the time we passed the bond issue until the time we started construction, but we kept plugging away at it and we got all the elements of what we had anticipated. It's just not as large as we initially planned, but that might be a blessing because a small Reed Arena-type auditorium would have had operating costs way out of our reach."

Sims says the complex will have broader appeal than just agriculture-related events. "The exhibit hall is three times as big as the Brazos Center, so it will fill a need for people involved in a lot of different aspects of the community and surrounding areas," he says. "I know there have been several times that groups haven't been able to find a space this size, so events just haven't come here."

Sims notes that the exhibit hall was positioned to allow a natural airflow – cross-ventilation through the heart of the building – to keep the temperatures cool. Also, a buffer of trees was left intact between the complex and the homes nearby.

Pattie Sears, director of tourism sales and service at the Bryan/College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau, says her office already has been marketing the complex as the area's newest venue. "It's something this community has been needing for a long time," she says. "We're looking forward to it. I think a lot of people are. Agriculture is so big in the Brazos Valley – agriculture is Brazos County."

Quarles has already hired an operations manager and is filling out the line-up with a buildings and grounds manager, an administrative assistant and buildings and grounds attendants. He plans to eventually hire four full-timers and four part-timers to set up and tear down events and to keep the site clean. If additional workers are needed, Quarles says he will hire temporary ones.

"We're going to do whatever it takes to be ready for those events," he says. "We've really got quite a few events for the last four months of 2007, and we've already got a lot booked for '08, with a lot of deals in the making. Once we start holding events and people compare notes on their experience, I think we're really going to build some momentum."

Some groups are saying they want to see the facility in operation before they book an event there, while others must wait for approval from their governing boards or committees. "There is some of that dynamic of not wanting to be the first to try it out, but most of it is that events are typically planned two or three years out," Quarles says. "An event is real important to whoever is planning it, and people have lots of choices. They're not going to just throw something together in a hurry simply because we're now open."

Similarly sized facilities usually are priced comparably, Quarles says. "We research each other and watch what the market is doing, so the main differences are location and reputation," he says. Some that are close in size include Montgomery County, Bell County, Longview and Shreveport. Abilene is bigger and Washington and Walker counties' are smaller. "Everybody's got their

own niche, and many of these have been in business a long time," he says. "We'll continue to learn and we'll perfect this, and we'll see what an asset this can become."

Quarles says he thinks most of the project's previous detractors have since come around. "People drive by here and they say, 'Wow, this is better than we thought it would be,'" he says. "I think we're going to meet the needs of the Brazos County, particularly for the youth of this area. If we do this right, we can bring a lot of people in to hotels and restaurants that aren't typically here – and at times we need it, like when it's not a home football game at A&M. I think it's a really good starting place. It has got the potential to be a real jewel in this area." *i*

## Facts & figures:

- **Covered arena:** 70,000 square feet with 3,000 permanent seats, including VIP seating sections and a second-floor seating area. A stall barn is nearby.
- **Exhibit hall:** 50,000 square feet, with five individual exhibit rooms, each outfitted with individual sound systems. The complex's offices are located here.
- **Stall barn:** about 60,000 square feet, with restrooms and a concession area. Can be configured for horse, cattle and livestock shows.
- 32 RV hook-ups
- Separate parking area for horse and livestock trailers
- Outdoor warm-up arena
- Wireless Internet capability throughout
- A two-sided marquee at the entrance will have LED lettering

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

# Eyes on the Prize

Young shooting enthusiasts take aim at a new education center



(Top L to R) Granger DeWitt (13), Brandy Drozd (13), Coulter DeWitt (11) shoot trap.

Shotguns and young 'uns aren't the first pairing most people would name, but Brazos County has a long history with youth shotgun sports. Brazos County 4-H Sportsman's Club started in 1976 as the nation's first 4-H shotgun program and served as a model for the state 4-H program. Then the National Rifle Association became a co-sponsor, and the program was adopted by other states.

The club's first practice site was at a public shooting range in College Station until it closed in 1996. Now members practice at the Boswell Porter 4-H Shooting Range on land donated in 1997 near Snook on County Road 247. The 138-member local club is the nation's largest, and it recently broke ground on a new education building to accommodate the growing numbers of participants. A fund drive to raise \$50,000 is in full swing to fund the building, which will include a large room for demonstrations and meals, a kitchen, an office and a storage area for clay targets.

Gun competitions are a good conduit to learning positive life habits, says Connie Smotek, a two-time Olympian who still coaches local youngsters through the 4-H. She was on the U.S. Olympic Skeet Shooting Team in 2002 and 2004. She started at age 14 in the 4-H program, where there are three shooting divisions from ages 8 through 18.

"This is a sport where you don't have to be the biggest or the strongest to excel, and that is one of the attractions of it," she says. "There is a lot of self-knowledge being enhanced: self-confidence and self-discipline. 4-H in general grows good citizens who know the rules and feel comfortable

explaining them to others, even correcting others when they're not abiding by them. That's something that is going to help them through their adult lives, as well."

There are six shotgun games ranging from skeet to trap to sporting clays, in levels going through American to International, or Olympic. The annual state shoot, held in San Antonio, attracts up to 600 youngsters.

The sport can be addictive, Smotek says. "It's a lifelong sport, and there is room for all levels. Some just want to learn gun-handling skills and safety; some want to hunt, and some are weekend competitors. And if they lay off for awhile, it's not a huge deal for them to come back and refresh their skills."

In fact, many come back to introduce their children to the sport, Smotek says. Brazos Lackey, a 21-year-old who started in the 4-H program 10 years ago, competes with the A&M Trap and Skeet Team. While in high school he visited seven foreign countries while traveling with the USA Shooting Team, and now he helps nurture the program by coaching two 4-H club members.

"Texas produces the most competitive shooters in the nation, and Brazos County's program was the first and is still the biggest," Lackey says. "The sport is growing and should just keep getting bigger. It's not a fad, it has been around since the late 1800s, and more and more places to shoot keep coming up. It's such a goal-oriented activity. If you practice, you will improve. And if you improve, you will win. It's simple."

Safety is at the core of every organized shooting program, and the owners of Burdett & Son Outdoor Adventure Shop



1



2



3

1 T.J. Bayer shoots during practice. 2 Granger DeWitt goes thru his pre-shot routine. 3 Guns are stored on a rack between rounds.

"We're just using that shotgun as a tool, to make these kids better citizens," says Brazos County 4-H Sportsman's Club Manager Kyle DeWitt. "They're learning responsibility, respect for adults and other kids, respect for property and sportsmanship."

The Brazos group started the nation's first 4-H shotgun program in 1976. The non-profit Sportsman's Club has raised \$100,000 in donations and needs another \$50,000 to pay for their new building. Kyle DeWitt says a local company, Dynacon Inc., has offered a matching grant of up to \$25,000 if club members can raise the other \$25,000 by October.



have been working to educate hunters and recreational shooters throughout their 25 years in business. The College Station store has sponsored hunter safety programs since 1990, and in 2000 they began offering a Hunter Education Day Camp for 12- to 17-year-olds. Texas law requires anyone using handguns to have completed a 10-hour course by the age of 17, but the Burdetts offer 32 hours so they can offer a broader education. Topics range from wildlife identification and tracks to snakes of the Brazos Valley and wilderness survival and first aid. The course is held at the Texas A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Department's Texas Co-Operative Wildlife collection off University Drive. The next session will be July 16-20. Each session is limited to 20 students.

The day camp targets hunters, recreational shooters and archery enthusiasts. "We are very heavy on safety, with hearing and eye protection and hours of instruction before they ever put their hands on a weapon," Kathy Burdett says. "As long as someone is familiar with a weapon and knows how to handle it, things are just fine. It's the kids who don't get the training, who just go pick something up, who are going to get hurt and injure others."

Kathy Burdett, who owns the store with her husband Dave, says they have seen a growing interest in the program. Though there is no advertising outside the store, "as it gets closer we have to turn people away."

"This whole sport is growing, but it's still pretty traditional," she says. "Sometimes we see families going out together but more commonly it's boys going with their dads or grandparents."

Another avenue of acquiring knowledge about the sport she says is the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts programs. "I think we're lucky in Bryan/College Station because we do have so many Scouting programs, and so many volunteers who are willing to work with the kids."

Dave Burdett lauds the 4-H program's emphasis on safety and inclusion of the entire family. "You don't just sign your kid up and drop him off; you make a commitment to work right alongside him to learn about the safety and the different aspects of the weapons," he says. "It also teaches ethics and the pursuit of excellence. It's not just shooting lead in the sky, which wouldn't accomplish much, it's about how hard work pays off and how you can work toward something important." *i*

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# business briefs

July 2007



**Brandi Ring-Cooper** was recently announced as the **Leading Women Express Network** candidate for the national **2008 Top Ten Business Women** competition. Each year, 10 members are recognized nationally for

exceptional achievements by being selected as the Top Ten Business Women of ABWA. Ring-Cooper will go on to compete with nine other outstanding business women for the title of 2008 Top Ten Business Woman of the Year at the 2007 ABWA National Leadership Conference in September. She currently serves as the Leading Women Express Network president. Ring-Cooper is with **Coldwell Banker United, Realtors** and has been honored with Coldwell Banker's International Diamond Society award in recognition of volume of production for three consecutive years as well as the company's Eagle award, which is voted on by her peers. She also holds a Quality Service Certification and has achieved 100% customer satisfaction.

**July 11** from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., the **Leading Women's Express Network** (local affiliate chapter of the American Business Women's Association) will be holding its monthly networking luncheon at Christopher's World Grille, 5001 Boonville Rd. For more information or reservations, contact Brandi Cooper at brandi@brandiring.com.

**BetaMED, Inc.** recently announced its award of accreditation status by the **Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC)** for the services of providing home medical equipment. ACHC, a private, not-for-profit corporation was developed by home care and community-based providers to help companies improve business operations and quality of patient care. Accreditation is a voluntary activity where healthcare organizations submit to peer review of their internal policies, processes and patient care delivery against national standards. Founded in Bryan/College Station in 2001, BetaMED is a provider of durable medical equipment specializing in mobility products such as scooters, manual and power wheelchairs, walkers, and other associated equipment and accessories. Owners David Gest and Chris Handlin have nearly 25 years of combined experience in providing quality goods and services to Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance clients. BetaMED is located at 1908 Greenfield Plaza in Bryan.

**The Quality Texas Foundation**, the administrator of Texas' premier annual performance excellence award, announced that **St. Joseph Health System** has been selected as a recipient of the **2007 Texas Award for Performance Excellence (TAPE)**. SJHS is one of three statewide award recipients for 2007 and is the first organization in the Brazos Valley to receive the Award since its inception in 1993. Patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria and process, the Texas Award for Performance Excellence is an annual recognition of Texas organizations that have achieved performance excellence and applied outstanding quality principles in their day-to-day operations. The award is presented annually to organizations that serve as role models for quality, customer satisfaction, and performance excellence in the state of Texas. St. Joseph is only the third health care organization to receive the Texas Award

for Performance Excellence. St. Joseph Health System joined the consulting firm Freese and Nichols, Inc. of Fort Worth and Northwest Vista College, a community college in San Antonio, as 2007 award recipients. St. Joseph Health System, a health ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, is an integrated healthcare system consisting of acute care and long term care facilities, critical access hospitals and rural health clinics in 15 locations within a seven county primary service area. More information about St. Joseph can be found at [www.st-joseph.org](http://www.st-joseph.org).

Bryan resident **Victoria DeSantiago** recently became the **Home Instead Senior Care** of Bryan/College Station's first CAREGiver to reach 10,000 hours of providing care to her clients. Home Instead Senior Care serves older adults as non-medical companions. DeSantiago has been a Home Instead CAREGiver since October of 2003. Owner David Gest of Bryan recently received a Vista Award at the company's International Convention for superior sales and service satisfaction.

The **Community Health Accreditation program (CHAP)** has approved continued accreditation with deemed status for **Hospice Brazos Valley**. This accreditation keeps HBV's Medicare license intact, making the future of the agency sound and the care provided deemed excellent. According to CHAP, Hospice Brazos Valley's methods for managing patient care and its administrative techniques are extremely reliable. Hospice Brazos Valley is a non-profit, community-owned agency committed to caring for individuals touched by life-limiting illness, grief, and loss. The goals of care are accomplished through a comprehensive, individualized plan including medical care for the patient and emotional and spiritual support for the patient and entire family. Care is provided to all people in need without regard to race, age, faith, diagnosis, or ability to pay. *i*

## AROUND TOWN



During the Junior League of Bryan/College Station's Annual Meeting in May, the Brazos Valley Food Bank was presented with its final Future Impact Gift payment. The total Future Impact Gift was \$200,000 over five years. (L-R) Theresa Mangapora (Brazos Valley Food Bank), Sherri Brice, Ann Wiatt, Kay Rice and Whitney Wolf (all of Junior League).



Denise Fries, owner of Fries Financial Services, is the winner of the 5th Annual Women-Owned Business Community Impact Award from the B/CS Chamber of Commerce. Fries opened her business in 1984 after

graduating from Texas A&M University and while still serving in the Army Reserves. As a financial planner, she helps families meet their financial goals. She manages over 185 million dollars and has been one of the top 10 financial advisors for her broker dealer every year for the last 12 years. The award was presented at a luncheon sponsored by the Texas A&M University Historically-Underutilized Business (HUB) Program (L-R) Carol Gravis, Wells Fargo Bank and Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce; Denise Fries, Fries Financial Services; Royce Hickman, President of the Chamber of Commerce; Manuel Gonzalez, Chamber of Commerce Chair Elect; and Barbara Clemmons, Director of the HUB Program for Texas A&M University.





Each year Hospice Brazos Valley recognizes those employees who exemplify the quality and dedication of a hospice professional with a green jacket. Other awards include the Five Years of Hospice Spirit & Service Awards which went to: Jeff Cantrell, Jeneanne Lancaster, Cherry Moore, Brenda Mueller, Felisha Smith and Brenda Tate. The Annual Symposium brings together board members, staff, volunteers and community members for a day of renewal, team building and goal setting for the continued growth of the organization. The Green Jackets are awarded to both Brenham and Bryan office employees and volunteers. (Back Row L-R) Sara Johnson, Cheery Moore, Connie Forman, Mary Loftis, Carla Jackson, Felisha Smith. (Front row L-R) Jeanette Willis, Jacque Shupak, Dot Arlitt.



The bronze sculpture called *Treasured Moment* – a life-sized representation of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and two children sitting on a bench – was created by local artist Lynn Haste. Haste also created the Bryan Bomber sculptures located across Main Street near the LaSalle Hotel and the Thor sculpture that is displayed in front of Bryan High School. At a cost of \$40,000, *Treasured Moment* was funded by the City of Bryan, the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, and Friends of the Bryan + College Station Public Library System.

(L-R) Padriac Fisher, Mayor Ernie Wenttrcek and artist Lynn Haste at the unveiling.

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