



2024

Wharton County's

Best Of The Best

10 Categories

The People Vote, Businesses Win!

Special Publication of

**EL CAMPO
LEADER-NEWS**
www.leader-news.com

Wharton Journal  Spectator
www.journal-spectator.com



**East Bernard
Express**

Welcome to the 2024 *Best of Wharton County Magazine*

Looking for the business, industry or person who excels in their field? You can find it here in the third Best of Wharton County magazine, your guide on everything from eateries and retail stores to automotive repair and the best place to work.

A total of 5,948 nominations were made and 34,489 votes were cast in the contest, all tabulated by a third party vendor to ensure a fair tally.

This Best of Wharton County is made possible thanks to you, the readers, along with generous support of the advertisers you find listed within these pages.

"The contest was conducted late in the year so this magazine could serve as your guide for 2024. We hope you consider visiting the advertisers who made this magazine possible and take the time to explore the amazing variety of businesses you'll find in the assorted communities in Wharton County from Danevang to East Bernard, El Campo to Wharton, and Lane City." Editor and Publisher Shannon Crabtree said.

Presented by The *El Campo Leader-News*, *East Bernard Express* and *Wharton Journal-Spectator*, a copy of this publication will also be available on the newspapers' websites.

"Thank you for taking a bit of your time to look through this magazine that showcases the diverse and best businesses Wharton County offers, as they were nominated by and voted on by the locals," Interim Publisher Frances Deiterich said. "This joint publication of our county's three newspapers offers you the

opportunity to sample what the towns in the county provide, from dining experiences to great service providers. I hope you use this as a guide to discover all the fun experiences you and your family can have from now and throughout the next year."

The newspapers began notifying winners as results came in, but this is the first public presentation, broken down into 10 sections, a copy of which can be found online at each

newspapers' website. The magazine was inserted into *El Campo Leader-News*, *East Bernard Express* and *Wharton Journal-Spectator* in addition to being made available to chambers, advertisers and placed in key locations throughout the county.

Results of the Best of Wharton County remain on the website year round.

Congratulations to all participants and winners – and enjoy the best the county has to offer.



Shannon Crabtree
Editor/Publisher
El Campo Leader-News



Frances Deiterich
Interim-Publisher
Wharton Journal-Spectator

Brought To You By

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www.leader-news.com
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Look Inside...



The number one place for Wharton farmers' tractors, equipment, parts and service as voted by you.

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A strong community bond and a business handed down through generations.

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A business handed down to sons who have been in the business from day one.

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Family is at the heart of this oilfield corporation and with that comes the assurance of quality.

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Far more than a coffee shop, this business has become a true community center.

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Small college classes with four campuses means big options for your education.

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The staff at **Wharton Tractor Company** stand with their first place awards for **Best Tractor and Equipment** and **Best Tractor Service and Parts**.

BEST OF AGRICULTURE

Best Ag Insurance

Winner – Texas Insurance & Financial Agency
 Second Place – Wiese Crop Insurance
 Runner Up – Ag 1st LLC

Best Agriculture Business Support

Winner – The First State Bank
 Second Place – United Ag Co-op
 Runner Up – Ag 1st LLC
 Honorable Mention – Audra Rod Smith – El Campo

Best Feed Farm Equipment Supplies

Winner – Wharton Feed & Supply
 Second Place – United Ag El Campo General Store
 Runner Up – Tractor Supply

Best Tractor and Equipment

Winner – Wharton Tractor Company
 Second Place – Shoppa's/John Deere – El Campo
 Runner Up – Rice Farmer's Co-op

Best Tractor Service & Parts

Winner – Wharton Tractor Company
 Second Place – Shoppa's/John Deere – El Campo
 Runner Up – Rice Farmer's Co-op, Inc.

BEST OF AUTOMOTIVE

Best Car Detailing

Winner – B.A. Savage Detailing - Wharton
 Second Place – Pete's Detail Corner
 Runner Up – Aaron's Details
 Honorable Mention - Drip n Dry Detailing

Best Car Salesman

Winner – Virgil Quintero – Don Davis Motor Company
 Second – Michael Phoenix
 Runner Up – Mike Hail – Wharton Ford

Best Car Wash

Winner – Socha's Car Wash
 Second – Marshall's Car Wash
 Runner Up – Speedy Stop

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Best Oil Change

Winner – Hoffer’s Lube Express
Second – Wharton EZ Lube
Runner Up – Miller’s Lube & Service

Best Paint and Body Shop

Winner – Stephen’s Auto Body
Second – Pekar’s Body Shop
Runner Up – B K Customz & Collision

Best Service and Repair

Winner – Elite Automotive
Second – Wharton EZ Lube
Runner Up – Boling Equipment Service

Best Tires and Repair

Winner – Impact Tire and Service, LLC
Second – Hoffer’s Lube Express
Runner Up – Strouhal Tire

Best Used Car Lot

Winner – Don Davis Motor Company
Buick GMC Chevy
Second – Wharton Chevrolet GMC
Runner Up – VonDerAu Ford

Best Vehicle Dealer

Winner – Don Davis Motor Company Buick GMC Chevy
Second – Wharton Chevrolet GMC
Runner Up – VonDerAu Ford

BEST OF CHILDREN & EDUCATION

Best After School Program

Winner – Creative Care Children’s School – East Bernard
Second – Just Do It Now, Inc.
Runner Up – Pilgrim Rest El Campo After School Activities Program

Best Coach

Winner – Coach Jonathan Gibson/Boling
Second – Coach Danny Gaona/Wharton
Runner Up – Coach Chadrick Harris/El Campo

Best Day Care

Winner – Creative Care Children’s School – East Bernard
Second – Presbyterian Preschool
Runner Up – The First School

Best Teacher

Winner – Petra Riley – Wharton Elementary School
Second – Brianna Viktorin
Runner Up – Brittany Rives – Northside Elementary School

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BEST OF ENTERTAINMENT & SOCIAL

Best Date Spot

Winner – Greek Bros. Oyster Bar & Grill
Second – Rooster's 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Runner Up – The Plaza Theatre

Best DJ

Winner – Audio Boss DJ's
Second – Blake George
Runner Up – Chris Shorter

Best Event Decorator

Winner – Elegant Occasions by Terry
Second – Popfetti Col

Best Festival

Winner – Monterey Square Wine and Arts Fair
Second – El Campo Prairie Day Festival
Runner Up – Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival

Best Live Music Venue

Winner – Greek Bros. Oyster Bar & Grill
Second – Scheller's Bar and Grill
Runner Up – Sunnyside Saloon

Best Nightlife

Winner – Greek Bros. Oyster Bar & Grill
Second – Sunnyside Saloon
Runner Up – Scheller's Bar & Grill

Best Park

Winner – Legacy Park
Second – Dinosaur Park
Runner Up – Friendship Park

Best Wedding/Party Venue

Winner – The Rustic Chandelier
Second – The Orchard at Caney Creek
Runner Up – Wharton Civic Center

BEST OF FOOD AND DRINK

Best Bakery

Winner – Prasek's Hille Smokehouse
Second – H-E-B Bakery
Runner Up – Reyna's Cafe

Best BBQ

Winner – Backyard BBQ
Second – Damon's Real Texas BBQ
Runner Up – Hinze's Bar-B-Que

Best Breakfast Taco

Winner – Taquerias Las Regias
Second – La Dianita's Tacos
Runner Up – Cree's Kitchen

Best Buffett

Winner – Freddie's
Second – Mr. Gatti's Pizza
Runner Up – Mikeska's Bar-B-Q & Catering

Best Burgers

Winner – Dane's Country Kitchen
Second – Father & Son's Grill
Runner Up – Freddie's

Best Burrito

Winner – Mach's Restaurant
Second – Jalapeno's Cuisine
Runner Up – Damon's Real Texas BBQ

Best Catering

Winner – Reyna's Cafe
Second – Cree's Kitchen
Runner Up – Rooster's 2 Go Wings and Waffles

Best Chicken Fried Steak

Winner – Reyna's Café
Second – Rooster's 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Runner Up – Cree's Kitchen
Honorable Mention - Lone Star Cafe

Best Chicken Salad

Winner – Ritz Food Mart
Second – Jackson Street Coffee and Market
Runner Up – Novak's Meat Market

Best Coffee

Winner – Jackson Street Coffee and Market
Second – McDonald's
Runner Up – Honu Nutrition

Best Coldest Beer

Winner – Kahanek's Place Beer and Soft Drinks
Second – The Beer Ranch
Runner Up – Sunnyside Saloon

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Best Cookie

Winner – Amy’s Cookie Co. and Bakery
Second – Cookies by B
Runner Up – Prasek’s Hillje Smokehouse

Best Crawfish

Winner – Pincher’s Restaurant
Second – Hinze’s Country Kitchen
Runner Up – The Beer Ranch

Best Dessert

Winner – Amy’s Cookie Co. and Bakery
Second – Rooster’s 2 Go Wings & Waffles
Runner Up – EK Funnel Cakes and More

Best Enchiladas

Winner – Mach’s Restaurant
Second – Casa Hernandez
Runner Up – Damon’s Real Texas BBQ

Best Fajitas

Winner – Los Cucos Mexican Cafe
Second – Cree’s Kitchen
Runner Up – La Casona Mexican Restaurant & Cantina

Best Family Dining

Winner – Rooster’s 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Second – Reyna’s Cafe
Runner Up – Lone Star Cafe

Best Fast Food

Winner – Whataburger
Second – Rooster’s 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Runner Up – Georgia Mae’s Good Eats

Best Food Truck

Winner – Georgia Mae’s Good Eats
Second – Taco Citos Food Truck
Runner Up – Rooster’s 2 Go Wings and Waffles

Best Fruit

Winner – Dulce Locos
Second – Peach Creek Country Market LLC
Runner Up – Fruit Paradise

Best Healthy Menu

Winner – Honu Nutrition
Second – 3 in 1 Fit Center
Runner Up – Jackson Street Coffee and Market

Best Iced Tea

Winner – Rooster’s 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Second – Cree’s Kitchen
Runner Up – Mach’s Restaurant

Best Jerky

Winner – Prasek’s Hillje Smokehouse
Second – Buc-ee’s - Wharton
Runner Up – Vincek’s Smokehouse



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GENERATIONS KEEP WELDING AND FABRICATION GOING STRONG

With more than 40 years in business serving Wharton County, it's no secret why TJ Welding & Fabrication is the area's most-trusted service provider in the industry.

Started in April of 1983 by Thomas and June Jansky in a small, wood-framed corrugated building owned by Thomas' mother, Pauline, TJ Welding & Fabrication has evolved from making BBQ pits and repairing farm equipment to building products that are found all over the globe today.

Thomas' vision started when he left the metal industry in Houston, and over the course of many years, his business built relationships with some of the top-named companies, which they still produce work for today.

In the late 90's, Thomas' son, Chris Jansky, took over the business and exceeded his father's expectations in leading the growth that has brought TJ Welding & Fabrication to where it is today.

Chris' son, Brent Jansky, now runs the business as a third-generation member of his family to do so and is taking pride in every job, no matter the size, just as his father and grandfather did.



"Our team works together to ensure nothing but the best is produced inside our shop," Jansky said of his business, which employs eight. "We are one big extended family."

That commitment to excellence has ultimately led TJ Welding & Fabrication to where it is today - primed for even more growth.

"Maintaining our quality over the years has allowed us to expand once again as we break ground in 2024 to add over 6,000 square feet of shop space, which will house new machines, allowing our capabilities to reach new heights."





Photos by Al Dubé

Chris Jansky (above) shows an electrical housing created exclusively for CenterPoint Energy.

TJ Welding & Fabrication is located at 3714 CR 137 in Wharton and is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Best Kolache

Winner – Prasek’s Hillje Smokehouse
 Second – Vincek’s Smokehouse
 Runner Up – Daylight Donuts
 Honorable Mention – Breakfast Nook

Best Margarita

Winner – Los Cucos Mexican Cafe
 Second – The Beer Ranch
 Runner Up – La Casona Mexican Restaurant and Cantina
 Honorable Mention – Lupe’s Mexican Cafe

Best Menudo

Winner – Cuevas Mexican Restaurant
 Second – La Dianita’s Tacos
 Runner Up – La Herradura

Best Mexican Cuisine

Winner – Jalapeno’s Cuisine
 Second – Los Cucos Mexican Cafe
 Runner Up – Cuevas Mexican Restaurant

Best Pizza

Winner – Mr. Gatti’s Pizza
 Second – Pizza Hut – El Campo
 Runner Up – Pizza Hut - Wharton

Best Queso

Winner – Los Cucos Mexican Café – El Campo
 Second – Damon’s Real Texas BBQ
 Runner Up – Cree’s Kitchen

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Values learned while serving in the U.S. Marine Corp gave Ray Roberson the blueprint for success in life and in business – discipline, integrity and dedication. Roberson Air Conditioning works and lives these values every day, part of what made them number one in the Best of Wharton County 2023 contest.

Ray Roberson began working in Wharton as a sheet metal mechanic at Gulf Coast Medical Center in the mid-1980s. In 1991 he started Roberson A/C out of the back of his blue Chevrolet pickup truck. Roberson's first commercial refrigeration customer was Timmy Barker.

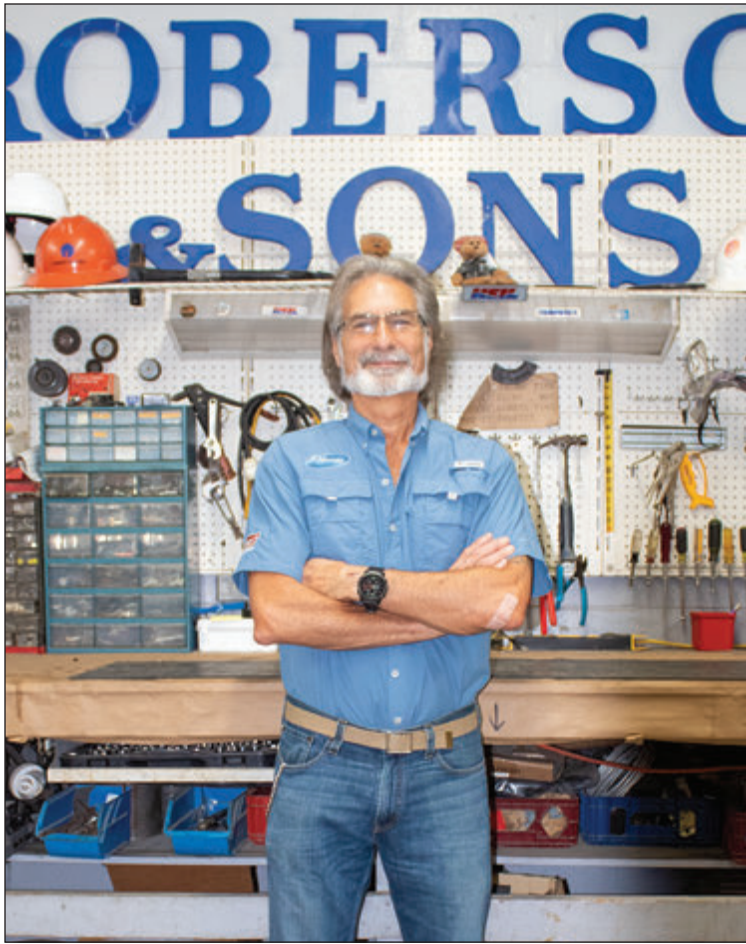
Michael and Joe rode along with their dad and eventually Joe worked half-day high school work programs in his senior year at Wharton High School. Joe went from part-time to full-time, working right after he graduated. While his classmates talked of college, Joe had a vision to take over the family business.

Michael attended Texas A&M University at College Station, working during the summers and joined the team full time in 2005, after graduation. Michael earned his Texas HVAC contractor license in 2011. Later, Jacob received his license in 2022.

Continued on page 12

Top Photo: Ray Roberson and his sons in their workshop on E. Milam.

Next Page: Ray Roberson in front of his workbench. Roberson A/C's first Chevy truck. The three boys in the early days of Roberson A/C.



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Roberson A/C – Continued from page 10

Michael Robeson said the business is best known for fast-service, integrity and reliability. "We pride ourselves in making our customers happy and comfortable."

With the same mindset as Joe and Michael, and with a collective focus on being the best AC company around, In 2011, Ray incorporated the business and sold portions to each of his three sons. The three sons turned their father's motto "We've been here and we'll be here," into a reality.

The company provides HVAC installation and repair, HVAC maintenance, indoor air quality service, mini-split service and installations, vinyl window replacement, and home energy saving solutions.

"We commit to being the highest quality contractor available by offering a strong positive family presence in the community and providing an exceptional customer service experience as we focus on innovative comfort and energy savings backed by our family name," Michael said.

The family sincerely thanks Wharton County for becoming the home of Ray Roberson and Wharton for being the hometown of the Roberson Family!

Roberson Air Conditioning is located at 200 E. Milam in Wharton. The shop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To contact them, call 979-532-5101 or visit robersonac.com.

Best Restaurant

Winner – Rooster's 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Second – Damon's Real Texas BBQ
Runner Up – Reyna's Cafe

Best Restaurant Service

Winner – Rooster's 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Second – Reyna's Cafe
Runner Up – Cree's Kitchen

Best Salsa

Winner – Casa Hernandez
Second – Cree's Kitchen
Runner Up – Los Cucos Mexican Cafe

Best Sandwiches/Subs

Winner – Father & Son's Grill
Second – Damon's Real Texas BBQ
Runner Up – Jackson Street Coffee and Market

Best Sausage

Winner – Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse
Second – Damon's Real Texas BBQ
Runner Up – Pitt Viper BBQ

Best Seafood

Winner – Pincher's Restaurant
Second – Hinze's Country Kitchen
Runner Up – Georgia Mae's Good Eats

Best Steak

Winner – Reyna's Cafe
Second – Greek Bros. Oyster Bar and Grill
Runner Up – Cree's Kitchen

Best Tortillas

Winner – Cree's Kitchen
Second – H-E-B Bakery
Runner Up – H-E-B

Best Wings

Winner – Rooster's 2 Go Wings and Waffles
Second – Cree's Kitchen
Runner Up – EK Funnel Cakes & More

BEST OF HEALTH CARE

Best Chiropractor

Winner – Domino Chiropractic PLLC
Second – Saiz Chiropractic Center
Runner Up – Benson Chiropractic
Honorable Mention – Carolyn Bubela

Best Counseling Services

Winner – Turning Leaf Counseling & Education Center
Second – Linda Butcher/Therapy Solutions 4U
Runner Up – Blake Benson

Best Dentist

Winner – Brian M. Swenson, DDS
Second – David A. Tripulas, DDS
Runner Up – Abby Dental

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Best Dermatologist

Winner – Erwin Dermatology – Medical & Cosmetic Dermatology

Second – DermSurgery Associates – El Campo

Best Home Health Provider

Winner – Angels Care Home Health

Second – AccentCare Home Health

Runner Up – Sacred Care Home Health

Best Hospital/Clinic

Winner – El Campo Memorial Hospital

Second – MEHOP Family Medicine & Behavioral Health - Wharton

Runner Up – OakBend Medical Center – Wharton Hospital Campus

Best Optometrist

Winner – Keith J. Ermis, O.D. – Berkeley Eye Center/Wharton

Second – Karl M. Ermis, O.D. – Berkeley Eye Center/El Campo

Runner Up – Exceptional Eye Care

Best Pharmacy

Winner – H-E-B Pharmacy – El Campo

Second – H-E-B Pharmacy - Wharton

Runner Up – CVS

Best Physician

Winner – Dr. Robert Ogdee

Second – Dr. Nathan Nguyen/Mid Coast Medical Center/Wharton (24 hour clinic)

Runner Up – Dr. Brooke Dorotik



Photos by Amanda Chase

Jontae Graves prepares an order of Septicfit for Amazon fulfillment at **Aquafit**, 220 Sam Bishkin. **Aquafit** opened its El Campo location in Fall of 2019 and manufactures industrial chlorine products and distributes chlorine tablets for pools along with Septicfit for home owners with septic systems to surrounding counties.



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* Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Almanac 2021



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Named No. 1 in the Oilfield category by voters in the Best of Wharton County contest, Gulf Coast Lease Service works in that area and far more. "We also do farm and ranch work – clearing, grading, fence building and shredding," company vice president Billy Freeman said. In the oilfield, the company can take care of repairs, pipeline leaks, building tank batteries, roads, and pads, and demolishing abandoned pipelines and buildings.

Started in April 2004, Gulf Coast Lease Service is 60 employees strong and operates in Wharton County (based in El Campo). Its crews work areas from Crystal City to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The company is the descendant of JPF Lease Services started in 1988 by current Gulf Coast Lease Service president Joe Freeman.

"GCLS is family owned and operated for over 35 years. We believe in family first. Some of our employees have been with us for over 35 years," Billy said.



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Billy and Shawn Freeman, company's manager, are Joe Freeman's sons.

The original JPF Lease Services worked with a workover rig company owned by the family. Key Energy purchased JPF Well Service in 1995 and decided to dismantle the lease service division.

"At that time, the managers from JPF Lease Service began their own lease service and Joe Freeman became

the majority owner. That is when Gulf Coast Lease Service was born. Fortunately, most of our former employees have stayed with us, even though the ups and downs of the oilfield," Billy said.

"Hopefully, we will be able to work hand and hand with our sons and daughters as we have been so privileged to do with our father, and take Gulf Coast Lease Service further into the future of this great industry," he added.

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BEST COFFEE AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

You know a coffeehouse's good when you walk through the doors and just want to say 'ahhhhh' and that's the feeling even the most devout caffeine addict gets when visiting Jackson Street Coffee and Market, 711 W. Jackson.

Voters in the Best of Wharton County contest agreed too, naming Jackson Street's coffee the best in the area. The honor is one of many for the establishment which has been making headlines for months, nominated for Texas Downtown Association awards and winning in their best renovation category.

Jackson Street just over a year ago was a dairy building that had sat abandoned for better than four decades. Entrepreneur Molli

Bodungen not only helped breath life back into the building, she created one of the can't miss community gathering places.

It's got mighty tasty chicken salad and sandwiches too – and scones, and muffins and have we mentioned the soups?

The coffee shop now includes an icehouse, a gathering spot that serves alcohol but aims to stay family friendly with the other areas remaining open at this same time. This allow some visitors to pick up a coffee or a muffin and still meet with those wanting a beer.

The facility is a venue that can be rented for assorted gatherings large and small from birthdays to

weddings, anniversaries and other parties during its short lifespan.

"The obvious economic impact of taking this building from embarrassing blight to a thriving business in a large commercial building goes without saying," City Development Corporation of El Campo Executive Director Carolyn Gibson said. "Molli loves to share her story, to mentor budding businesses, helping them realize their dreams too. Her back room has frequently been the location for farmer's markets and space for regional vendors who are able to test the local markets and see first-hand how wonderful the El Campo business environment is and actually feel the support from our community."



BEST HOME SERVICES

Best Contractor

Winner – DJ's Prep & Paint
 Second – BLS Construction, Inc.
 Runner Up – Jose De Jesus Estrada

Best Electrical

Winner – Barbee Electric Service, Inc.
 Second – H & M Electrical Services, LLC.
 Runner Up – Hobo Electric

Best Flooring/Carpet

Winner – J.J. Bubela's Floor Center, Inc.
 Second – El Campo Carpet One Floor & Home
 Runner Up – Alamo Lumber Company

Best Glass Company

Winner – Lone Star Glass Inc.
 Second – Big G Auto Glass
 Runner Up – Texas Window & Fence

Best Heating and Air

Winner – Roberson Air Conditioning
 Second – Cannell Air Conditioning & Heating
 Runner Up – Hunter's Air and Heat, Inc.

Best Home Cleaner

Winner – Oakman's Spotless Cleaning
 Second – Mann Maids

Best Home Builder

Winner – Dream Maker Construction
 Second – James Kresta, East Bernard
 Runner Up – BLS Construction, Inc.

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1st Place: Tractor Service & Parts

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Photo by Amanda Chase

Devon Vargas and Jose Rivera put together a BBQ pit for a customer at Sutherlands, 1504 N Mechanic. Sutherlands was the runner up for best furniture store and best hardware store for Wharton County Best of 2023.

Best Pest Control

Winner – Bugmobile Pest & Termite Control

Second – Gillen Pest Control

Runner Up – Safeguard Pest Control

Best Plumbing

Winner – All-In Plumbing

Second – Mason's Plumbing Co.

Runner Up – Gary Tupa Plumbing & Supply

Best Real Estate Firm

Winner – Country Pride Real Estate LLC

Second – Cori Radley & Co. Real Estate

Runner Up – RE/MAX Professionals/El Campo

Best Realtor

Winner – Jamie Appling – John Petty Realtors LLC

Second – Lin Hutzenbiler – RE/MAX Professionals

Runner Up – Brian Hargrove – Country Pride Real Estate LLC

Honorable Mention – Stacy Hoyt – EXP Realty, LLC

Best Roofing

Winner – Weather Guard Roofing

Second – Herrera Roofing Co.

Runner Up – Priority Roofing and Construction

Best Title Company

Winner – Mid-Coast Title Co. Inc./Wharton

Second – Coastal Title Co.

Runner Up – Stewart Title of the Coastal Bend, Inc.



Photo by Amanda Chase

Devon Vargas and Jose Rivera retrieve insulation for a customer waiting at the front of Sutherlands, 1504 N Mechanic. Sutherlands was the runner up for best furniture store and best hardware store for Wharton County Best of 2023.



Photo by Amanda Chase

Devon Vargas and Jose Rivera take insulation to a customer waiting at the front of Sutherlands, 1504 N Mechanic. Sutherlands was the runner up for best furniture store and best hardware store for Wharton County Best of 2023.



VIBRANCE

HEALTH

Family Medicine Clinic



Dr. Jayantha Ramu, MD

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new patients
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Tho Nguyen, FNP

10119 US-59 in Wharton ~ 979-245-2008

BEST LIFESTYLES

Best Apartment Living

Winner – Country Club Apartments
Second – Greenbriar Apartments
Runner Up – Mill Creek Apartments
Honorable Mention - Vallejo Properties

Best Dance/Gymnastics

Winner – Lynn Bates School of Dance
Second – South Texas Strutters – El Campo
Runner Up – Full Force Tumble & Cheer

Best Fitness Center

Winner - Warrior University
Second – CrossFit 1710, LLC
Runner Up – Hogan’s Victory Karate & Kickboxing

Best Hotel

Winner – Holiday Inn Express & Suites Wharton, an IHG Hotel
Second – Home2 Suites by Hilton, El Campo
Runner Up – Best Western Executive Inn, El Campo

Best Non-Profit

Winner – Just Do It Now, Inc.
Second – Hessed House of Wharton
Runner Up – El Campo Library

Best Peace Officer

Winner – Gabriel Perales – El Campo Police Department
Second – Sergeant Justin Moran – Wharton Police Department
Runner Up – Chief Landy Williams – Wharton ISD Police Department

Best Place to Work

Winner – Wharton County Junior College
Second – H-E-B/El Campo
Runner Up – First Financial Bank

Best Retirement Facility

Winner – Sodalis/Wharton
Second – Meridian Assisted Living
Runner Up – S.P.J.S.T. Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation

Best Tanning Salon

Winner – Shabby Chic Boutique & Tanning
Second – H243 Golden Glow Tans by Haley
Runner Up – Palms Tan N Tone, LLC

BEST RETAIL

Best Antiques/Collectibles

Winner – Bohemian Rhapsody II
Second – Van Gorp Auction Service
Runner Up –The Mercantile – Consignment Furniture

Best Artisan Shop

Winner – Montgomery Gallery & Frame
Second – Unlimited Creations
Runner Up – The Shed

Best Bargain

Winner – Second Time Around Resale Shop
Second – St. Thomas Thrift Shop
Runner Up – Rags to Riches

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Wharton County Junior College

SMALL CLASSES, AFFORDABILITY, PERSONAL ATTENTION AND FOUR CAMPUSES MAKE IT A GREAT CHOICE

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) offers more than 40 Associate of Applied Science and Certificate programs, an Associate of Arts/Science degree, dual credit and concurrent enrollment courses, plus continuing education and workforce development programs. The college holds one of the highest transfer rates in Texas.

Since WCJC's founding more than 77 years ago in Wharton, Texas, the college has grown to four campuses - campuses in Sugar Land, Richmond, Bay City and Wharton. Modern, vibrant campuses in Sugar Land,

Richmond, and Bay City complement WCJC's traditional campus in Wharton provides athletics and fine arts programs plus on-campus housing.

WCJC's Wharton campus offers transfer courses and many vocational program choices. The campus is home to programs in Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration, Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Public Safety (Police Academy), Computer Science, Engineering Design, Electronics, Office Administration, Early Childhood Studies, Automotive Technology, Welding, Cosmetology, Emergency Medical Services, and Networking.

The Bay City campus offers transfer courses and programs in Emergency Medical Services, Manufacturing Technology, Nuclear Power Technology, and Process Technology. Labs with state-of-the-art equipment enable students to train on the same equipment used at area plants.

At the Richmond campus, students take college transfer courses, as well as technical courses that train them in fast-growing career fields. Numerous fields of study are available that lead to certificates or Associate of Applied Science degrees. Other Richmond campus programs



VIBRANCE
HEALTH
PHARMACY



Kristi Barger, PharmD, RPh.
Pharmacy Manager

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include Cosmetology, Emergency Medical Services, Network Administration, Network Support Technician, Paralegal Studies, Police Academy and Process Technology.

WCJC's Sugar Land campus, housed on the campus of the University of Houston Sugar Land, is composed mostly of students working on the first two years of their four-year degrees. Students can choose from dozens of core courses and continue their studies at four-year institutions. In addition to an Associate of Arts/Science degree with an emphasis of study in various disciplines, the Sugar Land campus offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing.

WCJC has formal and informal agreements with many colleges and universities regarding transferability of college credits, helping students save time and money by taking their core courses for four-year degrees. The college continues to help students achieve their dreams with affordable tuition, smaller classes and personalized attention.

WCJC's tuition and fees are a fraction of the cost of most four-year universities in Texas. Visit wcjc.edu or call (800) 561-WCJC for more information.



Best Clothing Store

Winner – Shabby Chic 2.0
 Second – Ruby and Yaya
 Runner Up – Blue Creek Market

Best Computer Sales

Winner – The Computer Center
 Second – Tec-Tronic Systems Inc. – Radio Shack Dealer
 Runner Up – Walmart Supercenter

Best Furniture Store

Winner – Select Imports Furniture & Mattress
 Second – Tree House Furniture
 Runner Up – Sutherlands

Best Gift Store

Winner – The Vintage Butterfly
 Second – Selections On the Square
 Runner Up – Prairie Rose Emporium

Best Gun Shop

Winner – R & M Firearms
 Second – C & E Firearms
 Runner Up – Carroll's Gun Shop & Police

Best Hardware Store

Winner – Rioux True Value Hardware
 Second – Tractor Supply Co.
 Runner Up – Sutherlands

Best Jeweler

Winner – Gerberman Jewelers, Inc.
 Second – Tyler's Jewelry & Pawn

Best Liquor Store

Winner – Louie's Package Store
 Second – Shot Spot
 Runner Up – The Beer Ranch

Best Most Helpful Employees

Winner – H-E-B/Wharton
 Second – Tec-Tronic Systems, Inc. – Radio Shack Dealer
 Runner Up – AccuTax Service

Best Pawn Shop

Winner – Mr. Money Pawn, Gun & Jewelry
 Second – Tyler's Jewelry & Pawn
 Runner Up – Pawn Patrol

Thank You For Your Votes!

1st Place - Food Truck
3rd Place - Fast Food
3rd Place - Seafood

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Best Storage Facility

Winner – Stop-N-Lock Storage
Second – City-Wide Storage
Runner Up – My Storehouse Mini Storage

BEST SERVICES

Best Attorney

Winner – Philip J. Hundl
Second – Amy Rod – Paul Webb, PC
Runner Up – James Perez – Law Office of James Perez

Best Bank

Winner – The First State Bank - Wharton
Second – The First State Bank – El Campo
Runner Up – Prosperity Bank - Wharton



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KARISSA
PRIEMEYER
FNP-BC

Best Barber

Winner – Angel Gaona
Second – Cutting Edge Barbershop
Runner Up – Headlinerz – Antone Cardenas

Best Butcher

Winner – Novak's Meat Market
Second – Vincek's Smokehouse
Runner Up – The Ranch Downtown

Best Credit Union

Winner – Texasgulf Federal Credit Union/El Campo
Second – Texasgulf Federal Credit Union/Wharton
Runner Up – Wharton County Teachers Credit Union

Best Dry Cleaner

Winner – Lone Star Cleaning & Laundry
Second – Sunshine Laundry & Dry Cleaners
Runner Up – Modern Cleaners

Best Financial Advisor

Winner – Ann Hundl – Financial Advisor, Ameriprise
Financial Services, LLC
Second – Edward Jones – Financial Advisor, Chad Faucett
Runner Up – Edward Jones – Financial Advisor, Madeleine
W. Slator

Best Florist

Winner – Flowers Etc. & Gifts Etc.
Second – The Flower Shoppe
Runner Up – Flowers It Is

Best Funeral Home

Winner – Triska Funeral Home
Second – Wharton Funeral Home
Runner Up – Matthews Funeral Home

Best Hair Salon

Winner – Proverbs 31 Salon
Second – HM Hair Bar
Runner Up – Infinity Hair Beyond Salon and Spa

Best Hair Stylist

Winner – Hannah Mata
Second – Yecenia Garcia
Runner Up – Alyssa Gambill

Best Health Insurance Agent/Agency

Winner – Lindsey Litton – Health Insurance Agent
Second – Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Company
Runner Up – InsuranceNet
Honorable Mention – Rod Insurance

Best Home/Auto/Life Insurance Agent/Agency

Winner – TWFG – Cockrell Insurance
Second – Cody Sweat - State Farm Insurance Agent
Runner Up – State Farm Insurance – John Harborth
Honorable Mention – State Farm Insurance – Mary
Johnson

Best Income Tax Preparation

Winner - Johnna Sheek, CPA
Second - K. Kelley & Company, Inc.
Runner Up - AccuTax Service

Best Internet Service

Winner - Sparklight – Wharton
Second – Sparklight – El Campo
Runner Up – AT&T Store

Best Law Firm

Winner – Land Rights Law, PLLC
Second – Paul Webb, PC
Runner Up – Wadler, Perches, Hundl & Kerlick

Best Lawn Care

Winner – Professional Lawn Care
Second – Texas Coast Yard Maintenance LLC
Runner Up – J&R Services

Best Makeup Artist

Winner – Brittany Baker
Second – Lisa Holland, Wharton TX
Runner Up – BeautyByBelou

Best Massage Therapy

Winner – Intuitive Massage
Second – Overflow Wellness Studio
Runner Up – Kacey Lee Luna, LMT

Best Metal Trades

Winner – T. J. Welding & Fabrication
Second – El Campo Sheet Metal LLC
Runner Up – Multi-Fab Metals

Best Nail Salon

Winner – Classy Nail Spa
Second – Fancy Nails
Runner Up – Pisces Nail Salon

Best Oilfield

Winner – Gulf Coast Leasing
Second – Velocity Oilfield Services

Best Pet Boarding

Winner – Wharton Veterinary Clinic
Second – Country Pets LLC
Runner Up – Coastal Plains Animal Clinic

Best Pet Grooming

Winner – Pawlished Groomery
Second – Wharton Veterinary Clinic
Runner Up – Country Pets LLC

Best Photographer

Winner – Elated Photography
Second – Virtue & Vow Photography
Runner Up – Mamarazzi Photography by Corrina

Best Vet

Winner – Wharton Veterinary Clinic
Second – Alamont Veterinary Clinic
Runner Up – Coastal Plains Animal Clinic

Best Wrecker Service

Winner – Gene's Wrecker Tire & Truck Repair
Second – Poor Farms Wrecker Services & Building
Runner Up – Always Ready

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OUR SERVICES

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The advertisement features a family of four (a man, a woman, a young boy, and a young girl) smiling and sitting together. The background is a soft, warm-toned image of the family. The text is overlaid on this image. In the top left corner, there is a circular seal with a star and the text "BEST OF WHARTON COUNTY". The TWFG logo is in the top right corner. The services listed are each accompanied by a small icon: a car for Auto Insurance, a house for Home Insurance, a heart for Life Insurance, and a paw print for Pet Insurance. At the bottom, there is a contact email and phone number, followed by a double arrow icon pointing right.



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