

Community Achievement Award

Sponsored by Genesis PrimeCare

The Community Achievement award is to recognize outstanding and lasting contributions towards the success, growth, and visibility of Marshall and Harrison County (as a destination location).

Creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship are no stranger to tonight's recipient. Well known to the area, our honoree has a story which spans many years, but their lasting impact and legacy of success and economic health continues. Their retail footprint on our area is not only significant, but a blessing for Harrison County. The road to success isn't easy, and expansions are NOT for the faint of heart...but tonight's award winner has persevered and succeeded.

An anchor for Harrison County, today's recipient is one of the largest retail drivers of our local economy, expanding into downtown Marshall with their second brick and mortar.

It has been a joy from *our* vantage point to watch the next chapter unfold. Breathing new life into a historic building while keeping true to the integrity of the architecture and charm, while also keeping the attraction "new" and inviting was the task at hand. True visionaries, every family member pitched in. Painting, tiling, renovating kitchen and dining space all ensued, AND with their 'signature' yet upscale Texas flare.

In the archives of the Marshall News Messenger, it was written of this building, "No retail business in Marshall was ever more famous than the "anchor" of the city's business community, the Joe Weisman and Company. Joe Weisman first opened his mercantile emporium in 1878 on the east end

of Peter Whetstone Square... A few years thereafter, he moved across the street to the north side of the square. By 1898, Mr. Weisman had purchased the site of the former King House Hotel on North Washington at Rusk and the adjoining livery stables. Quickly, an amazing 25,000 square foot building emerged, unlike anything then in Texas. Skip forward to 2003, after closures, reopening and restoration, the building was awarded the prestigious Historic Preservation Award from Preservation Texas. To drive by now, we believe that committee would be equally as delighted. The former Weisman Building with its recent antique coop and Central Perks Restaurant space is now the Marshall Mercantile, owned and operated by the Shoults family. Within you will find cuisine from High Horse 1898 ~ traditional favorites with a Texas flare. You will find Marshall Floral, catering to both special events as well as the general public with custom floral arrangements. You will see a mercantile filled with treasures, a museum space, and an event venue seating 500 or space for quaint gatherings and showers in the upstairs floors. Downtown is bustling.

Whether you visit Bear Creek Smokehouse, of international fame, ride their famous longhorn and eat a little BBQ, OR visit the Marshall Mercantile, you won't be disappointed. For taking a chance on a new venture, and for investing in Marshall and Harrison County, we say thank you. Please join me in welcoming to the stage, the recipients of the **Chamber of Commerce Community Achievement award, sponsored by Genesis PrimeCare, Robbie Shoults and the entire Shoults family.**