



Chamber Banquet Held Saturday

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet last Saturday night. Pictured from left are: Chamber of Commerce Directors Tom Kelley, Chriss Schuiring, John Gertson, Laura Myres, Barbara Class, Dan Canaris, Ron Janow and Rod Adkins.

Emergency Farm Loans Being Accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought, excessive heat, and high winds that occurred on June 1, 2005 and continuing, are being accepted at the Farm

Service Agency (FSA) office located in Bellville, TX, Farm Loan Manager Tim Respondek said.

Colorado County is one of two in Texas recently named by the Secretary of Agriculture eligible for loans to cover part of actual production and/or physical losses due to drought, excessive heat, and high winds that occurred on June 1, 2005 and continuing.

Respondek said farmers maybe eligible for loans of up to 100 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less.

For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75%.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Respondek said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this

emergency designation will be accepted until October 10, 2006, but farmers should apply as soon as possible.

Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing, with possible delays into the new farming season," Respondek said.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living.

Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet U. S. citizenship requirements and to farming partnerships, corporations, or cooperatives in which U.S. citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest.

The FSA office in Bellville is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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THC Announces Regional Web Sites

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is excited to announce the launch of the Texas Heritage Trails Program's regional web sites. The ten new sites are part of the THC's award-winning tourism initiative, the Texas Heritage Trails Program, which encourages people to venture out and rediscover the state's historic and cultural wonders.

This successful program capitalizes on the economic impact of heritage tourism — a \$40 billion a year industry.

Travelers are increasingly turning to the Internet as a travel resource. These new regional web sites allow travelers to find information and build custom itineraries to fit their travel needs. The user-friendly "itinerary builder" feature is specifically designed for the Texas Heritage Trails Program.

"The ten regional sites are an ideal venue for Texas communities to promote their local attractions and events. These web sites are particularly useful to smaller communities that do not have access to promotional outlets," said Janie Headrick, state coordinator of the Texas Heritage Trails Program.

The Texas Heritage Trails Program increases tourism at cultural and heritage sites in regions across Texas and revitalizes local economies through regional tourism development and marketing. The program

also stresses the importance of historic preservation to tourism and fosters effective local tourism leadership.

To visit the ten regional web sites visit www.thc.state.tx.us/travel.

Use the map to select a region of interest. For free heritage trail brochures call 866/276-6219. For additional information on Texas travel events

and vacation destinations, visit www.TravelTex.com, for a free Texas State Travel Guide call 800/888-TEX.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

Stevens names new administrator

Stevens Nursing and Rehab Center of Hallettsville recently welcomed their new administrator, Gayle Shelton, a native of Kentucky.

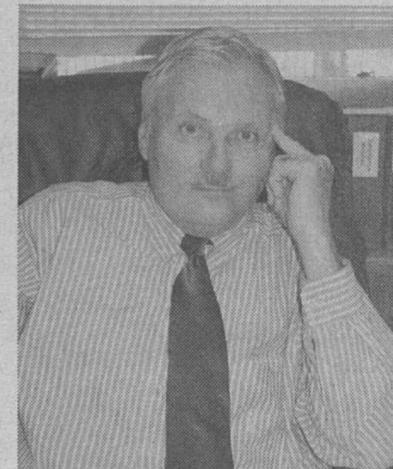
Shelton has been in the healthcare industry for 33 years, previously working as a trouble-shooter for Health Management Resources in South Carolina, maintaining the needs of four of their facilities.

Shelton believes he has always been a good administrator, but when his father suffered a massive stroke in 1988, his perspective changed and he became a great administrator.

"I went from running the facility with my head to running it with my heart," Shelton said. "Since my parents live in Kentucky and I was working in South Carolina, maintaining a long distance relationship was difficult. I had to put a lot of trust in the nursing home my father was admitted to."

His father needed intense physical therapy after the stroke and this made Shelton a strong believer in such programs in nursing homes. "My main focus is the physical therapy program because it gives patients hope," he said.

Shelton also went on to say that Stevens has an excellent



GAYLE SHELTON

physical therapy program with as many resources as full-scale rehab centers.

The administrator's care and compassion are evident, along with his soft-spoken demeanor.

He and his wife, Suzie, have two daughters, three dogs and a cat.

Shelton considers himself an outdoorsman who enjoys tennis, swimming and horses. He also has a passion for karate and owned a school of martial arts in South Carolina.

For more information about Stevens Nursing and Rehab Center, call 361-798-3606 or stop by the facility at 106 Kahn St. in Hallettsville.

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