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Airport Meetings Scheduled

TxDOT is conducting regional planning meetings throughout the state to review and update information for airports in the Texas airport system.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 20 from 2 to 4 pm. at the Wharton City Hall, Council Chambers, 120 E. Caney Street. Parking will be available across the street.

Airports to be discussed include Robert R. Wells, Jr., in Columbus; Eagle Lake Airport in Eagle Lake; Fayette Regional Air Center in La Grange and Wharton Regional in Wharton.

During the meeting citizens will have an opportunity to discuss airport needs.

Economic activity in general will be discussed, focusing specifically on the need for airport improvements as they relate to safety, access, local economic enhancement, and community development.

Specific airport development plans and timing of projects will be reviewed to determine if the TxDOT information is correct and current.

Funding procedures for state and federal financial programs for federal aviation airports will be addressed.

This meeting will offer a unique opportunity to provide essential input for airport planning and promotes an exchange of ideas and information with neighboring airport sponsors, TxDOT representatives, elected officials, and other interested citizens.

For more information on this meeting call Linda Howard at 512-416-4540.



The Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program recently honored owners of 102 farms and ranches for maintaining their property in continuous agricultural production within the same family for 100 years or more. Since the Family Land Heritage Program began in 1974, the Texas Department of Agriculture has honored more than 4,300 farms and ranches from 233 Texas counties.

Above: Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples recently recognized Ora Nell and Duane Meyer for the Meyer Farm at the Family Land Heritage Ceremony in the Capitol in Austin. Meyer Farm in Colorado County was honored for its acceptance in to the Family Land Heritage Program for 150 years of agricultural operation. Meyer Farm has been in continuous agricultural production since 1854 by the same family.



Senator Glenn Hegar toured Matagorda Bay Nature Park and Natural Science Center and met with local officials April 23. About 90 Bay City Junior High School students also were at the park participating in educational activities. Sen. Hegar watched a group of students examine dissolved oxygen levels as part of their water quality sampling exercise. Shown here from left to right are LCRA Natural Science Education Specialist Chris Rugaard, Sen. Hegar, and seventh-graders Joshua Martinez, Jacob Guerrero, and Ashley Carter from Bay City Junior High School.

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Headlight Wants Ads Really Work

WEIMAR GEDENKE!

FUN for the Whole Family!

Saturday, May 10
 Parade at 2 p.m.

FOOD/GAMES BBQ COOKOFF ARTS N CRAFTS

FREE MUSIC



Telstars 8:30 p.m.

4:30-8:30 p.m. DJ & Female Vocalist Butter Bartek
 3-6 p.m. Incredible Music Makers

Bring Your Folding Chairs!

ANTIQUA TRACTORS

For more information call Craig Rainosek at 979-263-4101

Schedule of Events

- 7:30 a.m. Fun Run
- 10 a.m. Washer Pitching Booths Setup
- Noon Antique Tractor Display
- 2 p.m. Parade
- 3-8 p.m. Rotary Silent Auction
- 4-7 p.m. Fire Truck Rides
- 5:30 p.m. Pie Auction

USDA Announces Business Loans

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program.

Funding in the amount of \$53.7 million is available to create and maintain employment in rural communities.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to providing economic development opportunities in rural Texas communities," said Daniel Torres, Texas USDA Rural Development Business Programs Director.

"These loans will help preserve or create jobs needed to maintain the economic vitality of rural communities."

The B&I Guaranteed Loan Program allows lenders to make larger loans, provide more competitive rates and longer terms

and bring additional capital into the community.

Loan proceeds may be used for working capital, purchase of machinery and equipment, purchase of buildings and real estate, and certain types of debt refinancing.

Banks and other authorized commercial lenders target communities with populations of 50,000 or less and locations not closely associated with urban areas.

Priority is given to applications for loans in rural communities with a population of 25,000 people or less.

Although a borrower may get several loans for a project, Rural Development will not guarantee more than \$25 million in loans.

Rural Development will guar-

antee 80 percent of a loan of \$5 million or less, 70 percent for loans between \$5 million and \$10 million and 60 percent for loans between \$10 million and \$25 million.

Loans for working capital must be repaid within 7 years; loans for machinery and equipment within 15 years (or useful life) and loans for real estate within 30 years.

A borrower must have collateral sufficient to protect the interests of the lender and the government.

Personal and/or corporate guarantees are required in some cases.

Interest rates for loans may be fixed or variable and are negotiated between the lender and borrower.

The lender performs a credit analysis and determines whether the borrower has adequate equity, cash flow, collateral, history and the managerial capacity to execute the project.

USDA Rural Development is dedicated to delivering programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural Texas residents.

For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Business Programs, contact the Texas State Office at (254) 742-9780 or visit <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.



Sidewalk Sale Saturday, May 10

We also have lots of new items for Mother's Day and Everyday.

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