

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**  
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 CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,  
 TEXAS 77434-0067  
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## To The Editor & You

### 'I urge your support of hospital district'

#### Erroneous information in April 6 'letter'

To the Editor:  
 I would like to correct some erroneous information that was printed in the April 6th edition of the Eagle Lake Headlight in the letter submitted by Bill Wilson entitled "Economic Justification".

Mr. Wilson states that "Colorado-Fayette Hospital in Weimar has 38 beds available with a current occupancy rate of about 20%." This statement is entirely inaccurate.

This hospital is licensed by the Texas Department of Health for 38 beds. In 1994, the hospital had 32 beds which were set up and operating. Of

these 32 beds, 20 were designated for acute care and 12 were designated for a distinct part skilled nursing unit. In 1994, the occupancy rate for the acute care beds was 66%. The occupancy rate for the skilled nursing unit was 68%.

For the record, the hospital has been well in the black for the past four years without a tax district.

Sincerely,  
**Randy Bacus,**  
 CEO/Administrator  
 Colorado-Fayette  
 Medical Center

#### Old-timer reflects on need for hospital in Eagle Lake

To the Editor:  
 As a long-time citizen of Eagle Lake, I feel the need to express my reasons for fully supporting a tax district for the Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

I was born in Eagle Lake November 14, 1906, and have lived here all but 10 years of my life. During the almost century span of my life, I have relied on the hospital serving Eagle Lake to take care of my health needs. I have used the hospitals serving Eagle Lake for numerous surgeries and tests. I had surgery in the Fitzgerald Sanatorium, the medical facility serving Eagle Lake in the early 1900's; I had three emergency operations in the Laughlin Hospital; and to many out-patient stays in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital that I have lost count.

I give thanks and blessing to our local doctors and specialists and our local hospital for the excellent care provided right here in our hometown. I had surgery here as recently as March 27th of this year. And, I would hate to think how much more difficult it would have been to go out of town.

I would like to point out that paying a tax to support the hospital would not be so costly in the long run. Think

of all the years that you pay school taxes for 12 years of schooling per individual. A hospital tax is needed to operate the hospital which is available to everyone, from before birth until death, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

It may be necessary to cut back on other things, but not on supporting a hospital for this community. We had to cut back during the Depression years. Why can't we cut back on something else to keep a hospital here?

The cost to go to out-of-town doctors and hospitals would end up being greater than the yearly tax, considering the trips to and from as well as motel costs for family members when a loved one is in the hospital. You would be paying taxes in that town for the care and for lodging, as well as the gas for the car.

I need this hospital, the staff, the local doctors and specialists to stay here; don't you?

Lora Baring Thomas  
 Eagle Lake

Note: Before any of you call us, the headline on this letter was written by Lora Thomas.

**Rev. Erik Cameron**  
 the new pastor at the  
**Eagle Lake Mission Church**  
 510 E. Prairie 234-3225

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## House passes welfare reform, adds alimony

The Texas House approved a bill that would retool the state's welfare system and establish alimony.

Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, said the bill creates time limits, requires responsibility in work and clamps down on benefits for those who have children out of wedlock while on welfare.

State Comptroller John Sharp praised Hilderbran's bill, saying the measure would "free Texas taxpayers from the upward spiral of public assistance costs and needy Texans from the downward cycle of dependency." Sharp's office helped develop the legislation.

Hilderbran's bill would:

- Require welfare recipients to work;
- Limit cash benefits paid under Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC); and
- Set a time limit on receiving AFDC benefits.

The bill moves on the Senate, where a companion bill is being considered. For those of us who want to see this area do something more than merely survive, and who want to move forward into the next century, with some prospect of a more prosperous economy, I urge your support of the hospital district.

Very truly yours,  
**Donald N. Bandy**  
 President, Eagle Lake Industrial Foundation

#### Hospital District...

#### Submitted by Bill Wilson

During the past few weeks we have progressed through debates concerning the proposed Rice Hospital District. There have been moments when I have been encouraged. I am encouraged that now almost everyone seems willing to use the term "downsizing." This is a change because in my first discussion with a Hospital Board Member I asked about downsizing and I was told the Hospital couldn't downsize. Everyone seemed to think financial problems for the Hospital began right after they added the new wing to expand. It seemed logical to me that if they could add the new wing, they could block it off. I believe the answer given was that the air conditioning was designed for the complete building, and they didn't feel they could block a portion of it off. Well, now that they have let the cat out of the bag and admit they will soon need a new air conditioning unit at a cost of a half million dollars, perhaps they could buy just what they need, a unit for a downsized Hospital.

I was encouraged in reading an article from a respected voice stating that we may well end up with a health care facility similar to the one proposed by Health Trust Inc. Further, the current Hospital Board states in a most recent article that there is no apparent escape from the "downsizing" of Hospital services.

I was most encouraged by a conversation I had last week with one of the proposed members for Rice Hospital District. This individual was very patient in explaining the proposed member's position and assured me of independence if ultimately asked to serve the community. This proposed member further stated that status quo for the Hospital was not acceptable and that change was necessary. This proposed member also thought a 20% tax rate was ample and would not support anything more.

I am, however, discouraged by some of the suggestions I am hearing.

#### What's the plan?

Without concentrating on cutting costs and making the Eagle Lake facility what that Eagle Lake can afford without dragging the same tax dollars from a higher value property.

Again, the question of economic growth — or even economic survival — is not merely an Eagle Lake issue. It is an issue that concerns the City of Eagle Lake, the entire Rice Consolidated Independent School District, all of Colorado County, and most, if not all, of the counties immediately around Colorado County.

All of this does not even address

sure they all have given a lot of thought to the task ahead. So why don't they have a few meetings to hammer out the plan? We have a right to know what they stand for and what they propose doing to make the changes everyone is talking about. Then we can vote for or against the Tax District based on our evaluation of whether or not we believe in the work they plan.

So, I ask the proposed Board of Rice Hospital District, What's the plan?

In closing, let me refer to the Eagle Lake Headlight of April 13th, the article on the Eagle Lake town meeting. Rev. David Mann of First Baptist Church related a story about Caldwell, Texas, that was given as justification for your approving a Hospital Tax District. It turns out that the Caldwell story is a very interesting one indeed. Next week I would like to relate the complete story to you.

Bill Wilson  
 Eagle Lake

#### Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 Years Ago

**Aug. 20, 1970**  
 The Eagle Lake Police Department added Jack R. Brock to its force last Thursday afternoon to fill the vacancy that existed since the resignation of Don Alfred a week earlier... Mrs. June Engstrom of Garwood received her degree at the summer commencement ceremonies at Southwest Texas State University.

**Aug. 10-11, 1971**  
 Mrs. Ethel Anderson of Chesterville, high school faculty member, was among some 350 local, district and state leaders of the Texas State Teachers Association conference in Austin, Aug. 10-11. Kenay Graham, son of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Graham of Garwood, was seriously injured when he fell into a rice auger cast. He was rushed to Gulf Coast Medical Center by ambulance where he underwent surgery to remove his leg below the knee.

**Aug. 10-11, 1971**  
 Mrs. Linda Linemier Wied of Garwood was honored with a baby shower Thursday, July 30, at 8 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Harvey Birdwell. Sixteen guests were present... Miss Patsy Skuca, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Skuca of Nada, became the bride of Lenhart Matula, son of Mrs. Elsie Matula of Garwood, on Aug. 1st at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

## State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling  
 Texas Press Association

**DEEDS**  
 Deed: Lintmie Evans and Bobbie Evans to Associated Properties Inc., subdivision Lots 13 and 14, Block 71, Town of Columbus; filed 3-6-95.  
 Deed: Betty Fletcher to J.N. & V.L. Dechman Living Trust, Lots 1 through 3, Block 35, Rock Island; filed 3-7-95.  
 Deed: Jason P. Pavlicek, et ux to Marie F. Pomitzsch, 0.73 acre, B. Beason Leagan, A-5; 3-9-95.  
 Deed: Winton B. Dickler, Jr. and Kathryn Ann Schocke to Eugene Pope, Lots No. 9 and 10, Block 29, Town of Sheridan; 3-7-95.  
 Deed: Cecil G. Hefegemeyer, et ux to The Hogeemeyer Living Trust, all of the oil, gas and other minerals in 10,266.055 acres, Frances Mayhar Survey, A-400 and various other surveys; 3-8-95.  
 Deed: Coastal Bank Savings Association to BFL Associates, 0.88 acre of land, a part of the W.B. Dewees 1/2 League Survey, A-18; 3-8-95.  
 Deed: Joseph P. Seane, et ux to The Joseph P. Swamy and Elsie T. Swamy Revocable Living Trust, 5.00 acres, T. Morris Survey, A-405; 3-8-95.  
 Deed: Thomas Joe Taylor to Esther Guerrero, parts of Lots 7 and 8, Block 19, City of Weimar; 3-8-95.  
 Deed: Steve Boyd Jr., to Joe Bruce Hancock Jr., Tracts 30, 31 and 32, Anderson, R. Knight Pre-emption, except Public Hwy., also Lot 16, Block 92, Provident City Township; 3-9-95.  
 Deed: Estate of Ernest J. Mout to Josephine Mout, 2.5 acres out of Outlot No. 42, Penfield and Peterson Addition, Town of Rock Island; 3-9-95.  
 Deed: George Lynn Ganze, et ux to B.J. Roberts, et ux, 7.07 acres, John Cassidy Survey, A-136; 3-9-95.  
 Deed: The Harry Holmes Cullen Jr., 1953-A Trust, the Katherine Cullen McCord 1953-A Trust, et al to Rose Jewers Manely 26.584 acres, Casper Simon Survey, A-502; 3-9-95.  
 Gift Deed: Bernell Sanford to Gregory Sanford, Lot 1, Block 37, Town of Alkyton; 3-10-95.

## Candidates for royalty sought

If you are interested in entering the Miss Eagle Lake (grades 8-12), Jr. Miss or Mr. (grades 4-7) or Little Miss or Mr. Eagle Lake (kindergarten-3rd grade), please call Tess Balas at 234-2502 during the day.

Many businesses are interested in sponsoring an entrant at the pageant on April 30 at the Prairie Edge Museum. Interviews will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the pageant slated for 3 p.m. The Miss Eagle Lake division

## Calling all pre-k, kindergarten students

Sheridan School will be enrolling students in pre-k and kindergarten on Wednesday, May 5, in the afternoon.

## Eagle Lake Community Hospital Patient List

For the week end 4-16-95  
**ADMISSIONS**  
 Eagle Lake: Edward Priemeyer, Rose Lange, Jose Vidal, Casey Tillman, Rosie Williams; Sealy: Evelyn Kveion; Altair: Clarence Jackson; Kendenon: Gertrude Clifton.

**DISMISSALS**  
 Eagle Lake: Mary Kozik, Kimberly Miller, Takeshia Hodge, Joe Chapman, Leatrice Johnson & Baby Girl, Maria Marquez & Baby Boy; Sealy: Susie Novosad, Alice Tipp; Altair: Kimberly Hoffman & Baby Girl; Wharton: Mary White & Baby Girl; Walter Young; El Campo: Shelia Bustamante & Baby Boy; New Ulm: Eddie Bader.

## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

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**COUNTY COURT CASES FILED**  
 Shelia Jaerning, Columbus, assault, filed 4-7-95.  
 Juvenilo Aguilar Lopez, driving while license suspended (DWI); 4-7-95.  
 Ronald Earl Barlow, Houston, speeding appeal; appealed 4-11-95.

**COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS**  
 Woodrow Wilson III, Columbus, hindering a secured creditor. Defendant paid Nole Contendre. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$500 plus court cost, three days in jail with days served credited.  
 Robert Shelton Giddings, driving while intoxicated (DWI). Defendant paid guilty. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$750 plus court cost, 60 days in jail and one year probation.  
 Jose Canacho, Weimar, DWI Defendant paid guilty. Court found the defendant guilty, fined \$750 plus court cost, 60 days in jail and one year probation.  
 Ronnie Wesley, Eagle Lake, DWI. Defendant paid guilty. Court found the

**DIVORCES FILED**  
 Charles Edward Ford Jr. and Glenda Sue Ford; filed 4-6-95.  
 Judy Stewart and Gregory Allen Stewart; 4-6-95.  
 John Edwin Blair and Donna Kay Blair; 4-7-95.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION**  
 Billy Don Heam, 43, and Penny Cooper, 45, both of Sheridan.

**CIVIL CASES FILED**  
 William J. Scott Jr. and Linda Q. Scott vs Joe Amador Landin and Evangelina Landin; injunction; filed 4-7-95.  
 Marsha Ann Rester vs Drymalla Construction Company Inc. & Edward Wilson; 4-7-95.

**DISTRICT COURT DIVORCES GRANTED**  
 Selena Torres and Ernest Wayne Torres; granted 4-6-95.  
 Alan Wayne Neuenhoff and Sharon Darlene Neuenhoff; 4-6-95.  
 Janis E. Hosman and Charles W. Hosman; 4-6-95.  
 Elviria Alicia Hernandez and Laz Hernandez-Rodriguez; 4-6-95.  
 Michael Edward Johnson and Deborah Joyce Johnson; 4-6-95.  
 Carolyn Piata and Manuel Piata; 4-6-95.

**PET VACCINATION CLINIC**  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 22  
 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Dr. Curt M. Degeyter (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) will hold a Pet Vaccination Clinic at Eagle Lake Farm & Home Supply, 1503 East Main (True Value Hardware Store). You are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to have your dog or cat vaccinated right here in Eagle Lake at Discounted Prices! Free Bath & Dip with vaccination. If your pet's shots are not due for a few months, getting them early will provide an extra measure of protection. This is not just a rabies clinic! If there is enough response to this clinic, Dr. Degeyter will return in six months for another clinic with the addition of horse vaccinations. "Once-A-Month" Flea Pills and Heartworm Pills Available. These pills are available only through a veterinarian. Dogs over six months of age must have a heartworm occult test before heartworm pills can be dispensed. Dogs over two months and under six months of age do not require the occult test.

Eagle Lake Community Hospital Invites You To A

## Health Fair

at the Sheridan Community Center  
**Thursday, April 20**  
 1 to 5 p.m.

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- Texas Dept. of Health
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