

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**  
 (USPS 169-760)  
 P.O. Box 67 — 229 East Main  
 (409) 234-5521  
 CITY OF EAGLE LAKE,  
 TEXAS 77434-0067  
 Published Weekly  
 Every Thursday

**Produced By:**  
 Jeannine Fearing • Carol Cardenas  
 Shirley Lueddecke • Betty Drymalla

**ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MONDAY**

**Subscription Rates**  
 Colorado County (including Lissie and Egypt) — \$12.00  
 Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton, Austin counties — \$13.50  
 Other Texas Residents — \$15.00  
 Outside of Texas — \$16.50

**Single Copy Price: 35-Cents**  
 Second class postage paid  
 at Eagle Lake, Texas

**Address Corrections**  
 should be sent to P.O. Box 67,  
 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

## To The Editor & You

### We need our hospital

Dear Friends,  
 I returned to the Heritage House yesterday, April 30, from the Eagle Lake Community Hospital where I had been a patient on three occasions within the past two months.

While there, I was treated for pneumonia and given two blood transfusions. I received excellent care dur-

ing these three stays. We need our hospital so very much! I pray that you will join me in voting YES for our hospital tax district.

Sincerely,  
 Elizabeth Allen Boothe  
 Eagle Lake

As this week comes to a close and the vote for the Hospital District approaches, I am reminded of a sign that apparently hung in one of the campaign headquarters during the 1992 presidential elections. This sign said, "It's the Economy!" It was prominently displayed so that everyone would remember what the main issue was.

In this vote there needs to be a sign that says, "It's the People!", because that is where the focus needs to be on this decision. When we talk about people in this case, we are talking about several sets of people; obviously the people who would be served by this hospital and the people who would not be served if the hospital doesn't exist. Is there a need for a facility such as this for the people in this area or not?

When you consider these people, consider another set of people. That is the dedicated set of people who have provided the care at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital for many years. This vote is not about maintaining a building and it is not about debt. It is about continuing to allow well trained people to care for people in the community.

As I think of this particular group of people, I am reminded of the nurse from Garwood who has been at the facility for more than 15 years. She started there as a nurse's aid and has

now developed into an outstanding registered nurse. She provides care and comfort to the people in this community.

I am also reminded of the operating room nurse from Sheridan who was the first nurse in this area to get certification as an operating room nurse specialist. Her care and dedication have served this area well for many years, and she has gone above and beyond the basic requirements so that she could provide optimum service to the patients in this area.

We have had ongoing efforts to merge and consolidate services with other facilities, and if given the opportunity I feel that these efforts will continue.

We were the first hospital in the area to develop the "regional network" relationship with the Memorial Hospital System. Not only has this allowed us to bring many specialists into the area who would otherwise not be here, but it has also helped us to develop a strong working relationship with this hospital.

Not only has this served the people well, but it has given us added publicity in that it has been noted on television on several occasions as a model of interaction between large hospitals and rural communities.

Finally, there is a question of commitment. The hospital board is committed to making this hospital go. It is committed to making the hospital cost effective and to provide those services which are necessary and to develop the type of relationship with other institutions which will allow us to continue to serve the people in this area in the best and most cost efficient manner.

### It's the people!

The physicians in our clinic are committed as well. My father has served in this community for over 40 years and continues to serve on a full time basis.

When I came to Eagle Lake I wondered if this would be a long term relationship or not. Many people say that you can't make it in the small town that you grew up in, and certainly can't make it working with a family member. Through the years, I have found that this is wrong, and I think this is probably a reflection of the uniqueness of our area. The care and compassion which the people in this area show both in the hospital and out of the hospital have been outstanding, and I can't imagine working anywhere else.

The Thomas Clinic recently entered into a relationship with a larger group which assures our ability to stay in this area and to continue to serve the people of our part of Colorado County as well as outlying areas. Rest assured that we are not going anywhere and that we are dedicated to continue to provide services to this area in whatever capacity that we can. It is our sincere hope that we will not have to compromise the quality of services which we offer in any way because of lack of facility.

In conclusion, please remember that it is the people that we are considering here, and the question shouldn't be "Can we afford to have this facility?", but rather "Can we afford not to have this facility?".

Sincerely,  
 R. Russell Thomas Jr.  
 D.O., M.P.H., D.A.B.F.P.  
 Thomas Clinic Partners

On behalf of The First National Bank and our Board of Directors, I am happy to respond to last week's comments by Mr. Phil Willenborg of Rock Island.

It is a well-known characteristic of our bank that we as corporate citizens and our directors and employees as ordinary citizens are actively involved in the communities we serve. We are proud of the leadership that our First National family has contributed to EL Community Hospital and many other civic endeavors throughout Colorado County.

There are several facts that hopefully will answer Mr. Willenborg and anyone else who may question the business relationship between the bank and the hospital:

1. Community leaders in small towns often serve on more than one

board of directors.

2. Bank directors who are hospital board members (or spouses of board members) are not permitted to vote on loan decisions regarding the hospital. (This is bank policy in any situation where there might be a potential conflict of interest.)

3. Bank loans to the hospital have been made on regular bank terms, secured by appropriate collateral, and audited by our independent CPA and federal regulators.

4. Whether or not there is a hospital tax district will have no bearing whatsoever on our ability to be paid. We are a secured lender and the value of our collateral far exceeds the amount owed.

Yes, we support the tax district, not as a source of loan payments, but in order to keep local control of an

are the people in our area served, but the model which was developed here is being used throughout the state for other facilities to develop trauma designation. In fact, the trauma transfer agreement which we developed with Hermann Hospital is now the recommended model throughout Texas.

In addition, there have been some claims that we are trying to maintain the status quo and are not aware of what the future holds. I would say that this is absolutely not true.

We have had ongoing efforts to merge and consolidate services with other facilities, and if given the opportunity I feel that these efforts will continue.

We were the first hospital in the area to develop the "regional network" relationship with the Memorial Hospital System. Not only has this allowed us to bring many specialists into the area who would otherwise not be here, but it has also helped us to develop a strong working relationship with this hospital.

Not only has this served the people well, but it has given us added publicity in that it has been noted on television on several occasions as a model of interaction between large hospitals and rural communities.

Finally, there is a question of commitment. The hospital board is committed to making this hospital go. It is committed to making the hospital cost effective and to provide those services which are necessary and to develop the type of relationship with other institutions which will allow us to continue to serve the people in this area in the best and most cost efficient manner.

### Bank responds to Willenborg

On behalf of The First National Bank and our Board of Directors, I am happy to respond to last week's comments by Mr. Phil Willenborg of Rock Island.

It is a well-known characteristic of our bank that we as corporate citizens and our directors and employees as ordinary citizens are actively involved in the communities we serve. We are proud of the leadership that our First National family has contributed to EL Community Hospital and many other civic endeavors throughout Colorado County.

There are several facts that hopefully will answer Mr. Willenborg and anyone else who may question the business relationship between the bank and the hospital:

1. Community leaders in small towns often serve on more than one

board of directors.

2. Bank directors who are hospital board members (or spouses of board members) are not permitted to vote on loan decisions regarding the hospital. (This is bank policy in any situation where there might be a potential conflict of interest.)

3. Bank loans to the hospital have been made on regular bank terms, secured by appropriate collateral, and audited by our independent CPA and federal regulators.

4. Whether or not there is a hospital tax district will have no bearing whatsoever on our ability to be paid. We are a secured lender and the value of our collateral far exceeds the amount owed.

Yes, we support the tax district, not as a source of loan payments, but in order to keep local control of an

## VOTE May 6

**Elect Robin Thomas**  
 Rice CISD  
 Board of Trustees,  
 Place 5



**A Quality Education For All Our Students**

Published advertisement paid for by Robin Thomas, 1301 FM 102 South, Eagle Lake, Texas

## Looking For An Easier Way To Balance Your Budget?

## Try Our Average Monthly Payment Plan.

Monthly electric bills. They go up; they go down — depending on the highs and lows of each month's weather. And that can throw any household budget off balance.

AMP — our Average Monthly Payment Plan — is the perfect solution.

With AMP, you pay about the same amount each month, all year — depending on your average monthly usage. That way, you always know in advance about how much you'll have to pay. And that makes budgeting a whole lot easier.

Best of all, AMP is free. Any residential customer can qualify. So give yourself a break from the monthly juggling act. Try Average Monthly Payment instead. For more information call CPL at 1-800-274-2611.



**Central Power and Light Company**  
 A Central and South West Company

Call Crime Stoppers • 234-5555 • It Pays Rewards

# We, listed below, urge you to support Eagle Lake Community Hospital with your vote in favor of the formation of the Rice Hospital District.

## Remember...

# VOTE YES

- Frances Adkins
- Stacy Alley
- Becky Anderson
- Jeff Argo
- Kimberly Ashton
- Larry & Roberta Bailey
- Carolyn Baird
- Steve & Linda Balas
- Brian & Tess Balas
- Ethel Balusek
- Brenda Beisel
- Olga & Gustavo Belman
- Don & Sandy Bendy
- Kevin Bendy
- H. Major Bengel
- Catherine Black
- Latanza Black
- Glenda Blair
- Lucille Blanchard
- Levater Bluntson
- Jane Booker
- Lucille Booker
- Elizabeth Boothe
- Frank & Rita Bowen
- Wayne & Jonna Bowen
- Louise Brandenburg
- Glen R. Bray
- Judy Brisco
- Teresa Brisco
- Jim & Becky Buckner
- Patty Buegeler
- Charlie & Helen Burchfield, MSN, RN, FNP-C
- Johnny Burns
- Betty Campos
- John Canaris
- Mary Canaris
- Carol Cardenas
- Tony & Lydia Cardenas
- Jody Carter
- Ollie M. Carter
- Dorothy Cassidy
- Andrew & Sylvia Castaneda
- Edvardo & Flora Castaneda
- Amy Castleman
- Delbert & Marlene Castleman
- Elva & Sam Castro
- Joe B. Chapman
- Lenora M. Chapman
- Edna Ruth Clark
- Sylvia Contreras
- Billy & Denise Cook
- Bob & Pat Cook
- Robby & Mary Kay Cook
- Michael & Grace Dell Cooper
- Leo & Hortensia Cordova
- Vic & Cherry Corman
- Pedro & Lourdes Cortez
- K.L. & Helen Craig
- Anita Dancy
- Demetria Dancy
- Mary Nell Dancy
- Willie & Annie Dancy
- Veronica Daniels
- Lois Davis
- Noe & Maria Diaz
- Hattie Maye Dromgoole
- Elizabeth & Michael Duarte
- Marvin & Beverly Duddleston
- Eunice Duty
- Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Eagle Lake Farm & Home Supply
- Eagle Lake Headlight
- Gary Evarra
- Ramiro & Irene Esparza
- Jeannine Fearing
- Celia Fernandez
- Jerry & Cindy Fink
- Shirley Fisher
- Julian & Dorothy Flores
- Edmund Frazer
- Corine Fry
- Kathy Fucik, R.N.
- Janet Fuentes
- Lana Fuentes
- Heberto & Nicea Garza
- Darrell & Gail Gertson
- Lovie Girndt
- Shane Glaiser
- Kim Gold
- Becky & Johnnie Gonzales
- Delfina Gonzales
- Joe Gonzales
- Mike & Sherri Gould
- Patsy Gray
- Harold L. Griffin, M.D.
- John Gutierrez
- Kim Hannigan, CRNA
- Bill & Margo Harrison
- W.H. & Rosanne Harrison Sr.
- Beth Hassin
- Billy Hefner
- Leona Hermann
- Imelda & Carlos Hernandez
- Emma Hernandez
- Orson & Elaine Hess
- Blair & Elaine Hickey
- Dawn Horndt
- John D. Huff, M.D.
- Allen Huggins
- Lynn Huggins
- Dominique Isenhower
- Nelson & Michele Isenhower
- B. Johnson
- Robbie Johnson
- Steve & Elaine Jones
- Betty Kana
- Jiggs & Liz Kana
- Jimmie Joe King
- L.D. King
- Ruby King
- Alan & Katrina Kohleffel
- Charlene Konesheck
- Ravindra Kumar, M.D.
- Helen Lamberth
- T Lang
- Alma Larmer
- Sandy & Les Le Bouef
- Bill & Caroline Lehrer
- Cindy Lewis
- Gene Linke
- Pauline Lira
- Glenn & Eva Locklier
- Ernestine Lott
- Shirley Lueddecke & Family
- Jennifer Luna
- Leonardo Luna
- Susie Luna
- David & Claudia Mann
- Vivian Mariscal
- Rose & Robert Martinez
- Beverly Mason
- Bill & Hazel Mason
- Selma Mathis
- Martin & Nelda Martinez
- Jessie Matthews
- John & Joan Matthews
- Lesley Matthews
- Laura Matthews
- Pat Matula
- Jerome & Calandra McAfee
- Marcella McGrew
- Jean McInteer
- Margaret McTear
- Philip & Kathryn Mehner
- Judy Meitzen
- Lee & Jackie Middleton
- Kitty Miller
- Russ Minter
- Claudio & Connie Morales
- Jackie & Clyde Roy Morales
- Rebecca Morales
- Rubby Morris
- Bea & Lucio Mota
- Marilyn Mueller
- Bo Munoz
- John & Laura Myres
- Bonnie Navarro
- Rev. Frank & Rosie Navarro
- Melissa Neubauer
- Janice Obenhaus
- Paula Orsag, PTA
- Emil Owen
- Mary Ann Owen
- Jose & Linda Pasohondo
- Ann & Eddie Pavliska
- Aileen Peck
- Joe Lee Perez
- Carl & Judi Pesnell
- Marjorie Porter & Family
- David R. Price
- Shannan Pustejovsky
- Martin & Elsa Ramirez
- Pedro & Carmen Ramirez
- Salvador & Josephine Rangel
- Connie Reibenstein
- Arthur J. & Joyce Rhodes
- Arthur Ray Rhodes
- James B. Rhodes
- Michael Rhodes
- Obie Rhodes
- Rita K. Rhodes
- Rip & Carol Ripper
- Gibbert & Delia Rodriguez
- Margaret G. Rodriguez
- James & Hortensia Salinas
- Marcy & Joe Salinas
- Del & Shirley Sanford
- Edward & Judith Satsky
- Rhonda Satsky
- Mary & Adolph Saucedo
- Betty Schiurring
- Louis & Janet Schorlemmer
- Doug & Janie Schwemm
- Jimmie Scott
- Valerie & Cleve Scott
- Victor & Beatrice Scott
- Faye Semora
- Gail Shavers
- Wilma Shorter
- Willard "Bill" Shuart
- Doris Sims
- Simon Sinclair
- Beverly Smith
- Hollis & Kathryn Smith
- David & Sharon Sommer
- Walter & Martha Sommer
- Ernie & Lonnie Sommerlatte
- Jeanne & Richard Sommerlatte
- Marie Sommerlatte
- Janie Sosa
- Linda Sosa
- Kate Spalinger
- Louise Spalinger
- Joe Mike & Diane Spanihel
- Aulton Spradley
- Hazel Spradley
- Darlene Stancik
- Melvin & Joyce Stancik
- Bill & Pat Stapleton
- Jim & Debbie Stastny
- Lillian Stevens & Family
- Ann Stevenson
- Sherry Stovall
- Alice Sunderman
- Steve & Beverly Taylor
- J.R. & Evelyn Thomas
- Lora B. Thomas
- Ray & Elfe Thomas
- Russell & Robin Thomas
- Sam & Sandy Thomson
- Hazel P. Thomson
- Lali Torres
- Melinda Torres
- Joe Ann Tyler
- Will Freeman Tyler
- Allan & Sheila Valigura
- Tim & Geri Vandermark
- Maria & Eddie Vargas
- Veronica & Mario Villafuerte
- Chris Villarreal
- Ramiro & Elisa Villegas
- Myrtle Vogelsang
- Linda Waddell
- Liz & Raymond Waddell
- Juanita Waligura
- Dale & Roxanne Walker
- Kelli S. Walker
- Kim Walker
- Wendell & Virginia Ward
- Buck & Barbara Watson
- Thurston Webb
- Betty Wegenhof
- Julie Whisnant
- Melvin White
- Wilfred & Grace Wick
- Bryan & Tanya Wiese
- Jim & Jean Wiese
- Bob & Betty Wilcox
- Wilcox Foods IGA
- Eddie Mae Williams
- Marie Williams
- Iva Willis
- Dorothy L. Woodard
- Stephanie Woods
- Beverly Wunderlich
- Angelita Yanez
- Lydia Yanez
- Martha Yanez
- Wendy Young
- Ann Zbranc

Paid for by Friends of Eagle Lake Community Hospital, PO Box 65, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434