



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To The Editor & You

We Must Work Together

I was glad to see so many citizens at the City Council meeting. It was great to know that we now have so many interested in the future of Eagle Lake.

What was a disappointment to see, in my opinion, was a divided council. This is the time that our city could be making great strides and those strides are not going to be made if our council is not united.

Someone asked me what I thought of the new mayor and one of the councilmen. It doesn't matter what I think of any of them. I have no social contact with any of them so I feel as I am fairly objective.

I feel as if they are people who ran for the office of running our city and as long as they do a good job, that is all that matters. There is not one council member that I could say I disliked, but I can and do disagree with them at times. Since they have never asked my opinion on an issue, I seriously doubt if they care whether I like them, agree with them or disagree.

I would like to comment on raising the rent for the Community Center. I think there does need to be an increase in the rental to protect the city's investment. The question came up why the Lion's Club and Rotary Club pay a monthly charge instead of the regular rate. The mayor indicated that these clubs are the same as other individuals renting the Community Center.

I do not agree. I do not see private individuals that rent the center for parties or weddings giving back to the community in the same way as these clubs. The members of these clubs give freely of their time and money to support the community.

Next time you go to the hospital, maybe you can stay in the room where the furnishings were donated by the Lion's Club.

Ask a member how many pairs of glasses the club has bought for local citizens that could not afford the price.

How many of us see the Lions standing in front of City Hall selling mops and brooms to help the handicapped?

Ask how many students they have sent to summer camp.

Ask the members how many volunteer hours they gave pulling those rides all around the country.

Ask some of the old timers' wives how many cakes they have made for a cake walk for the Lion's Club Carnival.

I am sure the same could be said of the Rotary and their projects. I just happened to know ore about the Lion's Club since my father-in-law is a charter member, and my son and husband are both members.

No, I don't think these clubs or the Study Club would fall in to the same category of "same as anyone else".

Thankfully, Sylvia spoke up and informed the members that this was a stipulation from the Wintermann's when they donated the Community Center to the city. I am glad that the Wintermanns saw the benefit of these clubs and worried about future leaders that would not know the history or be as concerned about these organizations.

We, as an audience, must agree to be quieter during the meeting. I can't stand hearing that gavel! The first time the mayor banged it, I was afraid my

(See Work Together, Page 4)

Letter to the Editor and Citizens of Eagle Lake

First, I attended the city council meeting where numerous issues were discussed two weeks ago. I felt the article "Council Approves Deficit Budget" in the paper was very accurate and the something this city really needs, truthful and honest reporting of our city government. How many citizens have gone to the city manager and the council regarding their concerns, only to see these concerns never addressed?

My family and I have complained about drainage problems in our home on 7th Street. Our neighbors and I have come to council meetings and voiced concerns for help. We've even gone so far as to present a petition to the council, yet they still haven't done anything to help resolve our problems. It appears our city government and council only talk about issues, but nothing ever gets done.

I now know why we never have our concerns addressed after reading the letter to the Editor of the *Headlight* by Councilman Eric Nethery. He cited many inaccuracies in the previous article in the *Headlight*.

I attended that meeting, before reading Mr. Nethery's letter in the paper the next day, and heard very little discussion on filling the vacancy for council and heard Mr. Nethery motion to leave it vacant and Mr. Young, without any hesitation, second the motion.

I'm very disturbed with this as our city should have full representation on the council and this appears to me that the council is not supporting our mayor or our citizens and only making decisions based on personal feel-

ings, not for the citizens of our community.

Mr. Nethery stated that sometimes hard decisions have to be made against the citizens, but for the good of Eagle Lake.

The way I see it, the council and city manager decided on the easy way out instead of seriously making cut-backs. It's easy to just raise our water rates and taxes, right Mr. Nethery.

In the meeting the other night, you were ready to just approve a rate increase for people wanting to use the Community Center to as high as \$1,300 for a full day and evening use.

Do you honestly think the citizens are going to rush over and pay this outrageous amount? I don't.

If, as a councilman, Mr. Nethery is going to mislead the citizens of Eagle Lake by denying the previous article, which represented exactly what was discussed in the meeting, he has no place representing the citizens of our community.

I have lived here my entire life and simply can not understand why our councilman continue to make decisions based on personal feelings or vendettas instead of what is in the best interests of our community.

David Ruiz
 Concerned Citizen

Nethery Statements Inappropriate and Untrue

I read with disgust the litany of tactless comments made by Councilman Eric Nethery in the Oct. 14, *Eagle Lake Headlight*. In response, my guest column is very long. Nethery took out of context a number of remarks I made about budget items. Though mine were truthful statements about the fact that Eagle Lake is against the wall for needed funds, and previous budget studies by Council had verified that cuts "across the board equally" were a necessity. Some of those deleted items in earlier budget hearings were personally to me onerous and difficult decisions to accept because I want Eagle Lake to have it all—from Main Street (because I served on the Texas Historical Commission's State Main Street Program as a Commissioner for almost 7 years) to the Fire Department (because my father was Fire Chief for so many years and adored the ELFD).

But, when the money is not there and some programs may not be working as productively as they could and should be, then even a good program like Main Street must suffer the consequences. Even when it is not their fault but rather caused by inappropriate control and meddling by municipal administration and cliques, resulting in citizen misinformation, feuding, and a lack of support for the program. It can not matter how painful it is for

me to support cutting that budget, even though I was one of the earliest promoters of the Main Support program for Eagle Lake. I would not be honest if I pressured Council to keep this part time salary of \$14,000 to \$17,000 (counting fringe benefits) when literally there is not money enough for "essential services", including better salaries for fulltime city employees, a large cash penalty assessment from TCEQ on our inadequate sewage system and a critical need for an emergency "contingency fund".

I must recount backward to the days of Mayor Michael Cooper in the early stages of the Main Street program. I was contacted by the TX Historical Commission that the Eagle Lake program was being micro-managed, literally no experienced and trained applicants from the state program had been interviewed for hiring to lead Main Street Eagle Lake. The key tenet of the state program is that outside, unbiased, independent, and experienced people from the Main Street Texas program are hired to create a new division of expertise for the newly-designated Main Street town. But most alarming from the State were the words that—unlike any other main street project across Texas—only

(See Inappropriate & Untrue, Page 4)

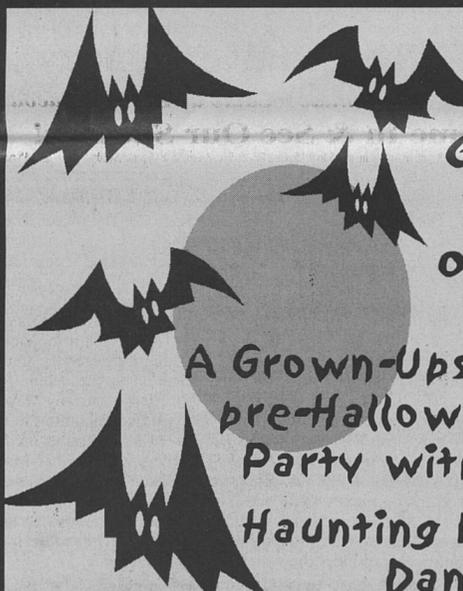
Lets Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Sept. 25, 1980
 New FFA officers are **Danny Ishee**, secretary; **Brian Korenek**, sentinel; **John Schneider**, president; **Raymond Mahalite**, treasurer; **Kathy Ishee**, reporter; **Michael Moore**, student advisor; **Troy Grounds**, song leader; and **Kenneth Mosley**, parliamentarian...
 Hawkins Broadcasting took over KULM Radio in Columbus...
Roy E. Addicks Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Addicks reported for duty with the U.S. Army on Sept. 24 at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina...
 New VICA officers are **Kashara Pratt**, Neatha Smith, **Phyllis Carter**, **Becky Munoz**, **Cynthia Evans**, **Ninfa Perez** and **Arie Spears**...
Ernest Fields and **Rob Johnson** combined for six touchdowns to lead

the Raiders over the Blue Jays in a win before 2500 fans at Raider Stadium...
 Area Starlettes at Wharton County Junior College this year include **Carolyn Pavlu** and **Theresa Becak** of Garwood and **Virginia Garza** of Sheridan...
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Sunderman proudly announced the arrival of a son, **Sept. 17** at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. His name is **Coy Thomas Sunderman**...
Joyce Marie Korenek and **Gary Wayne Supak** were married Sept. 20 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada.
Oct. 4, 1956
Clarence Duncan, a member of the armed forces was shot in the chest by **Elmer Lloyd Mitchell** with a .38 caliber pistol over an argument at the

Holub Café at Alleyton. Duncan was hospitalized and later transferred to a army hospital...
Douglas Bradford, son of **Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Bradford**, was complimented by his mother with a delightful party on his seventh birthday Sept. 20...
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cowan proudly announced the arrival of a daughter, **Linda Beth**, born at the Laughlin Hospital on Sept. 30...
 A son was born to **Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Muench**. **Teryn Lee** was born Oct. 1 at the Laughlin Hospital...
Michael Deane Reading is the name of the new son for **Mr. & Mrs. Bill Reading**. He was born Sept. 30 in El Campo...
 (See 24 & 48, Page 4)



Come and be Ghoulish at The Farris on the 30th

A Grown-Ups only pre-Halloween Costume Party with...

Haunting Music for The Dance Floor
 (so you can boogie -man down!)

Your Favorite Cauldron Cocktails

Ghostly Goodies from Michael's Haunted Kitchen

Best Costume Prize - Impartially Judged by Our Resident Zombie

\$30 per person

Channel Michael at 979-234-6500 for further details but hurry, the plots are rapidly being filled!




201 N. McCarty • Eagle Lake • 979-234-6500

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Justice Evelyn Keyes

First Court of Appeals



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