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## SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Austin Radiological Association partners with Smithville Regional Hospital**

Smithville Hospital Authority is proud to announce that Austin Radiological Association (ARA) has established a partnership with Smithville Regional Hospital and Bastrop Medical and Professional Clinic.

"We are very excited that the ARA has decided to partner with the hospital and clinic. The services they provide as well as the technology they utilize are a welcome addition to our community," said Dennis Jack, CEO of Smithville Regional Hospital.

ARA has provided quality imaging services to the people of Austin and Central Texas since 1954, and is continually working to improve access in the area to the highest quality services. Toward this end, they currently operate 15 outpatient imaging centers, located conveniently throughout Austin and Central Texas, and provide professional radiologist services at 10 area hospitals. Their imaging centers offer everything from mammography to MRI, and have specialty centers such as the Women's Imaging Center and Medical Arts Square (pediatric radiology), which cater to the special needs of their patients. They also work hard to improve access to quality imaging services by developing strong relationships with a large number of insurance and managed care providers.

ARA radiologists are all board certified in diagnostic radiology. The American Board of Medical Specialties recognizes diagnostic radiology as a medical specialty and gives certification to radiologists who meet its stringent requirements. To receive this certification, the radiologist must be a licensed medical doctor who has completed four years of medical school and an additional five years of training in radiology at an approved teaching hospital. Training includes instruction in all forms of diagnostic imaging, as well as the physics of medical imaging, and radiation safety. The radiologist must then pass a rigorous exam. He or she can also elect to train in a fellowship for an additional one to two years in one of several specialized areas (subspecialties) of radiology. The fellowship is done to gain greater proficiency in some of the very specialized imaging tests and procedures now available in radiology. Over three quarters of the ARA radiologists have completed fellowships in addition to their diagnostic radiology training. All take part in continued medical education each year to strengthen and broaden their skills.

"Smithville Regional Hospital has a state-of-the-art imaging center. The images captured by the equipment are created digitally, allowing shorter scan times for patient comfort and convenience while improving retrieval time for possible future needs," said Jack. "ARA board-certified radiologists are able to read these digital images on dual high-resolution monitors, significantly reducing the report turn around time to the patient's physician."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  
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