

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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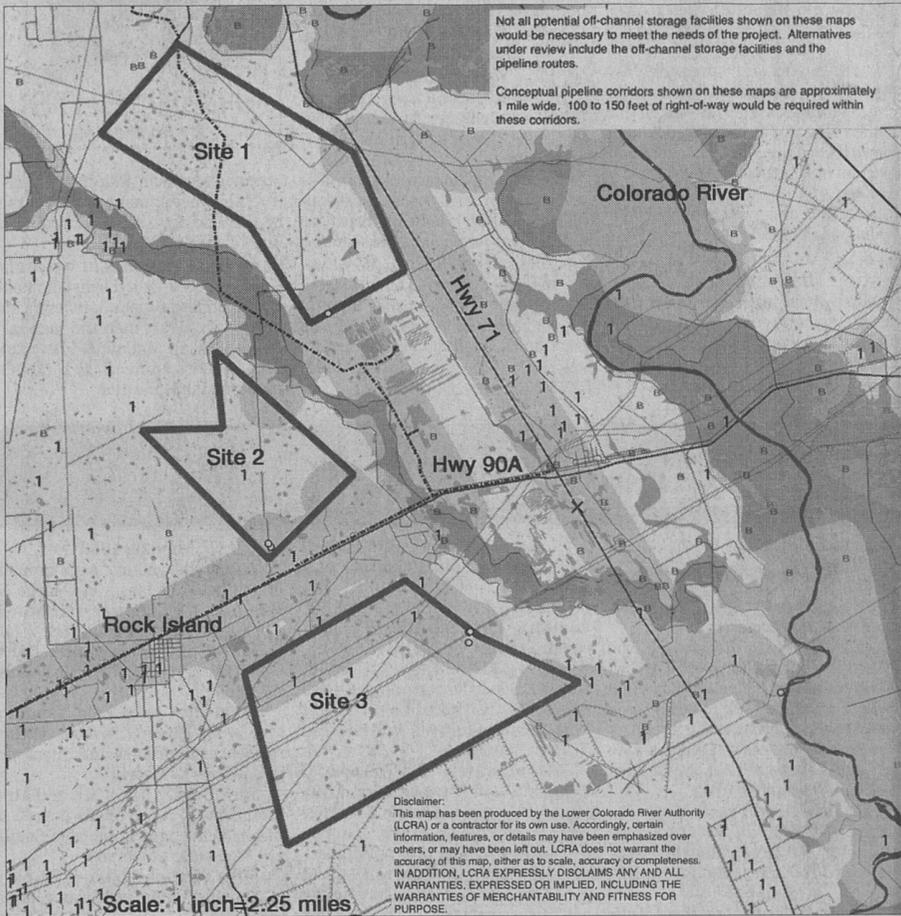
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Above is a map of three areas that LCRA has determined could be used for construction of a water storage facility if project plans proceed. The project is currently in a study phase, and if it goes through, construction likely would not begin until at least 2010.

## LCRA Targets Properties In County For Water Project

Three potential water reservoir sites have been identified in Colorado County for use in a joint project between the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and the San Antonio Water System, to provide water to San Antonio.

The project has been dubbed the LCRA-SAWS Water Project.

Three other potential sites have also been identified in Matagorda County.

In Colorado County, the three sites are located west of the Colorado River and Texas 71, southwest of Columbus and northwest of Garwood.

The sites were shown at what the LCRA described as an "open house" held Monday in Columbus to provide information about the project.

An LCRA representative said the three sites in Colorado County cover a combined total of 16,000 acres and have 89 different landowners.

He did not have a breakdown on how much acreage was covered in each site.

The northern-most of the three sites would be located about three miles southwest of Columbus.

Earlier, the LCRA said it was sending letters to landowners discussing possible use of their land for the water

storage project.

In addition, the maps shown at the Columbus meeting show the possibility of a pipeline to San Antonio being built in a corridor paralleling U.S. 90A.

LCRA officials said 100 to 150 feet of right-of-way would be required for a pipeline.

About 50 to 60 people were on hand as the open house when it started.

LCRA officials made no formal presentation, but instead provided information and answered individual questions.

A total of around 30,000 acres in the three counties have been identified as potential sites, but only about 10,000 acres would be needed for the facility according to Bill McCann of LCRA.

McCann said that LCRA is hoping to have only willing sellers to acquire the land for the project, but did say that condemnation of land would be an option of last resort.

"We look at it as a good opportunity for some folks who would like to sell their land," he said.

The Columbus meeting was the second of three the LCRA has planned in the area about the project. An earlier meeting was held in Bay City and another is set from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

May 25 at the El Campo Civic Center in El Campo.

The project calls for the construction of a water storage facility or facilities totaling 7,000 to 10,000 acres, according to LCRA.

The water storage facility would not be accessible to the public due to its use as potable water for San Antonio and would resemble the lake at the South Texas Nuclear Project.

The storage facilities would be fed by unused and excess river flows from the Colorado River and the water would be used to supplement the municipal water supply of the City of San Antonio, which is facing an impending water shortage crisis.

Some of the water would also be used for farming irrigation.

According to LCRA the project would make water available by conserving as much as 118,000 acre-feet of water per year for agricultural use, capturing excess and unused river flows to transfer between 50,000 and 150,000 acre-feet per year to San Antonio and pumping limited amounts of groundwater to be used for agriculture locally when sufficient surface water is not available.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### WCJC announces summer hour schedule

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) began operation of summer hours as of May 22 and will continue through August 18, at all campus and extension center locations. The college's summer hours for all administrative offices and libraries will be as follows: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This office schedule does not affect class schedule. For more information, please call 979-532-6322.

### Cowboy and Heroes celebration is Saturday

The Cowboys and Heroes day of celebration and honor for those wounded in Iraq will be held at the Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Saturday, May 27. Join them as they celebrate with two bands, PRCA cowboys, horse rides, wagon rides, with several wagons serving real trail cooking. This is a service by Chuck Wagons for Christ. It is for wounded soldiers only. For more information contact David Strickland at 361-676-0375.

### Closing for Memorial Day

The following businesses will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 29: First National Bank, Wallis State Bank, Wintermann Library, Colorado County Courthouse, and the Eagle Lake City Offices. There will be no trash collection on Monday. Mondays route and Tuesdays route will be collected on Tuesday. The Headlight will be open until noon Monday.

### Annual homecoming and service is May 28

The Annual Homecoming and Memorial Day Service will be held at the air-conditioned Rock Island Community Center, Sunday, May 28. A beef and sausage dinner with all the trimmings (dessert and iced tea or coffee included), will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults, \$7.50; children, \$4. The Memorial Service and Program will commence at 12:30 p.m.

### Gadabouts to hold flag raising May 29

In observance of Memorial Day the flag at the Garwood/Nada Veterans memorial will be flown at half-staff until noon May 29. At noon the flag will then be raised to full staff. Anyone interested in viewing the flag raising is invited to attend. Sponsored by the Nada/Garwood Gadabouts.

### Band Booster meeting is May 30

There will be a Band Booster meeting for all parents Tuesday, May 30 at 7 p.m. in the Rice High School band hall. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Questions will be answered regarding the junior high school band set up for next year as well as booster plans for the 2006-07 school year.

### Attention All Youth!!

If you are looking for something to do, come on and Praise the Lord with us at the First Annual Texas Gospel Youth Festival to be held Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 at New Life Ministries in Richmond. We are looking for Praise Dancers, Steppers, Gospel Rappers, Choirs, Groups and Soloists. Please call 281-935-3573.

### 68th Frnka reunion is June 4

The 68th Annual Frnka Family Reunion will be held Sunday, June 4 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Dining Hall in Frelsburg. Registration starts at 9 a.m. with the lunch at noon. A business meeting will be held at 1 and the auction follows at 1:30. Please bring your best dessert and items for the auction.

### Garden Club Bunco party is June 6

The Eagle Lake Garden Club will present its second annual Ladies Only Blossom Bunco Party Tuesday, June 6 at Didner Hall, 201 Crain St. in Eagle Lake. Registration and refreshments start at 6 p.m. games from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. Stop by for great fun and great prizes. Tickets available at Creative Expressions, Eagle Lake Drugstore, Golden Goose, First National Bank, or by calling 234-5179 or at the door.

### Hemphill-English family reunion is July 1

The Hemphill-English family reunion will be held in Eagle Lake July 1 at the pavilion at 545 S. Austin Rd. The pavilion will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the families. However, they will have their traditional religious hour at 9 a.m. at a local church.

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## Juvenile Center Lease Eyed By State

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, were told that the county was working on an agreement to lease office space in the now closed Juvenile Detention facility in Eagle Lake to five state offices under the state Department of Health and Human Services that are moving from offices in Columbus.

County Judge Al Jamison said the commissioners may need to call a special meeting to approve a lease.

He said the agencies include those dealing aid to families with dependent children, Medicaid, Child Protective Services and Adult Protection services.

Jamison said the lease involves about 5,300 square feet at a cost of about \$4,800 a month.

He said he did not have an exact number of employees, but said they were asking for 78 parking spaces.

Jamison said he has had no recent discussions with a company called Geo Group Inc., a private company that provides detention and correctional services. The judge had met earlier in the month with representatives of the company.

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## ELPD Plans Fundraiser June 29

The Eagle Lake Police Department will hold its Second Annual Equipment Fundraiser at the Eagle Lake Community Center on Thursday, June 29. The evening will include a Mexican menu and silent auction.

Meal tickets are seven dollars each and can be purchased from any ELPD Officer, at the Police Department or at City Hall. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended. The Sportsman's

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## Graduation Section June 1

The Eagle Lake Headlight will publish the graduation special section in the June 1 edition of the Headlight.



Many Colorado County residents turned out for the information session on the LCRA-SAWS (San Antonio Water System) project. The event, hosted by LCRA at the County Ag Complex in Columbus, was aimed to help inform residents about the project and to get feedback from residents.



An Eagle Lake Firefighter examines the remains of the vehicle that caught fire after it ran off the roadway and caught fire at the intersection of FM 1093 and FM 3013.

## Eagle Lake Resident Dies In Accident

Teresa Ann Wornat, 39, of Eagle Lake was killed in a car accident Wednesday night, May 17, at about 10 p.m. at the intersection of FM 3013 and FM 1093.

The "T" intersection is just inside the Eagle Lake city limits and is not lighted. Posted speed on FM 3013, the road Wornat was traveling, is 60 miles per hour.

According to police reports, Wornat was traveling north on FM 1093 in a 2003 Kia Sorento SUV when the vehicle failed to stop at the intersection with FM 3013.

The vehicle crossed FM 3013 and went into a ditch on the north side of the road then entered a pasture and

came to rest about 80 feet from the road.

The vehicle then caught fire and was engulfed in flames when emergency personnel arrived.

Police Chief Bill Lattimore said that there were no skid marks found at the scene.

The cause of the fire was not immediately determined, but Lattimore said the fire might have been ignited by grass coming into contact with the catalytic converter underneath the car.

He indicated that the gas tank on the vehicle was intact and apparently did not play a role in starting the fire.

Reports indicate that Wornat was

wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.

Peace Justice George Cason pronounced Wornat dead at 10:35 p.m.

Lattimore indicated that this particular intersection has seen a number of wrecks over the years.

"I have seen some bad ones out there," Lattimore said.

Eagle Lake Police Sergeant David Wiese assisted by Lieutenant Wendy Alley as well as the Department of Public Safety investigated the accident. The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Colorado County Emergency Medical Services assisted at the scene.