

On This Day in Texas History

Villa, and funding from both government and private sources helped restore and furnish the historic home. Ashton Villa was opened to the public in 1974 and is administered by the Galveston Historical Foundation.

January 7th, 1870

On this day in 1870, the Waco Suspension Bridge, a 475-foot structure that crosses the Brazos River in downtown Waco, was opened to traffic. At the time, it was the longest single-span suspension bridge west of the Mississippi River. Civil engineer Thomas Griffin teamed with John A. Roebling and Son of New York to build it, at a cost estimated between \$135,000 and \$141,000. Initially, the Waco Bridge Company operated it as a toll bridge. The county purchased it in mid-1889 and in turn sold it to the city for \$1. The bridge was closed to vehicle traffic in 1971. It is in the National Register of Historic Places and received a state historic marker in 1976.

January 7th, 1859

On this day in 1859, businessman James Moreau Brown purchased four lots at the corner of Broadway Boulevard and Twenty-fourth Street in Galveston. On the site he built Ashton Villa, reputed to be the first brick house in Galveston. He designed the three-story, Victorian Italianate residence himself and used slave labor and skilled European craftsmen to build it. To protect the house from the damp, Brown made the brick walls thirteen inches thick, with an air space between the exterior and the interior walls. Brown died in 1895; his home withstood the devastation of the Galveston hurricane of 1900, but its basement was filled with sand and silt. El Mina Shrine bought the house in 1927 and used it for the next forty years as business offices. In 1968 the Shriners offered the property for sale. A campaign led by the Galveston Historical Foundation raised \$125,000 to purchase Ashton

Water Weekly

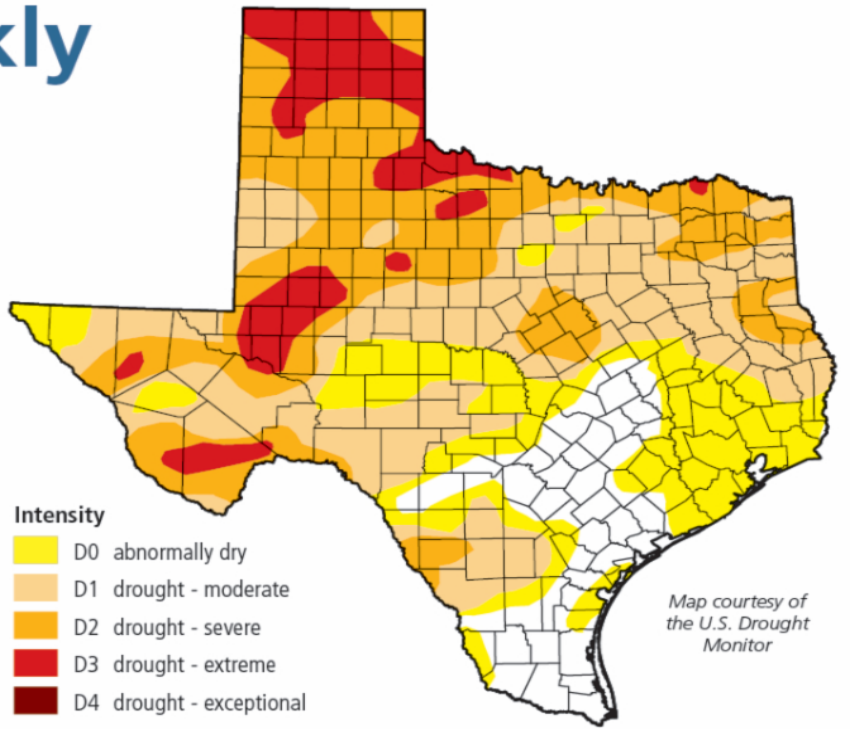
For the week of 01/03/22

Water conditions

December 2021 was one of the warmest and driest Decembers on record for Texas. As a result, the latest map for conditions as of December 28 shows continued expansion and intensification of drought. Extreme drought now covers more than 10 percent of the state.

Drought conditions

- ◆ 67% now
- ◆ 65% a week ago
- ◆ 7% three months ago
- ◆ 81% a year ago



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas percent area

Texas began 2021 with more than 80 percent of the state in drought. Above average rainfall that began in May reduced the area of the state in drought to less than 5 percent by mid-July. But since early September, drought has been steadily increasing across the state.

Texas percent area in U.S. Drought Monitor categories

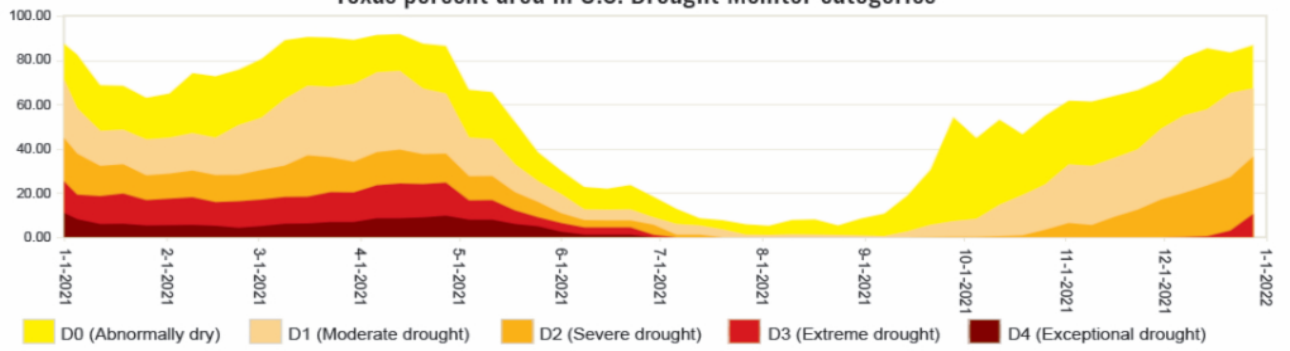


Chart courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

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Joke County Water Supply Corporation awarded grant
The Texas Water Development Board approved a \$500,000 grant to the Joke County Water Supply Corporation for a water treatment plant. The grant will be used to purchase and install a new water treatment plant at the Joke County Water Supply Corporation's water treatment plant in Joke, Texas. The grant will be used to purchase and install a new water treatment plant at the Joke County Water Supply Corporation's water treatment plant in Joke, Texas.

SPECIAL OIL & GAS SECTION

Washburn Rig Southeast of Robert Lee
The new Washburn Rig is located southeast of Robert Lee, Texas. The rig is being drilled by the Washburn Energy Company. The rig is being drilled by the Washburn Energy Company. The rig is being drilled by the Washburn Energy Company.

Special Government Section

Coke County Courthouse • Robert Lee
The new Coke County Courthouse is located in Robert Lee, Texas. The courthouse is being built by the Coke County Courthouse Authority. The courthouse is being built by the Coke County Courthouse Authority. The courthouse is being built by the Coke County Courthouse Authority.

Don't miss even one issue of THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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2019 Year in Review Issue
The year began with a cloud over Robert Lee's City Hall. Mayor Mike Gendron faced a tough choice at the start of the year. 2019's ending with a bang as the county's population grew by 1,000 people. The year was a year of change and growth for the county.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- 1/10 - High School Basketball
- 1/11 - High School Basketball
- 1/12 - High School Basketball
- 1/13 - High School Basketball
- 1/14 - High School Basketball
- 1/15 - High School Basketball
- 1/16 - High School Basketball
- 1/17 - High School Basketball
- 1/18 - High School Basketball
- 1/19 - High School Basketball
- 1/20 - High School Basketball
- 1/21 - High School Basketball
- 1/22 - High School Basketball
- 1/23 - High School Basketball
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- 1/25 - High School Basketball
- 1/26 - High School Basketball
- 1/27 - High School Basketball
- 1/28 - High School Basketball
- 1/29 - High School Basketball
- 1/30 - High School Basketball
- 1/31 - High School Basketball

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Saluting the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas
219 of 254 Counties in Texas

Saluting the Blackwell High School Class of 2020

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