

## Dry conditions increase risk of wildfires

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There are over 138 counties in Texas under a burn ban, as of mid-October.

Although temperatures have dropped, much of the state continues to experience drought conditions.

A dry weather pattern is expected to persist throughout the rest of the year. In an interview with the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network, Karen Stafford, program coordinator at Texas A&M Forest Service, noted these dry patterns will extend primarily through North Central Texas and East Texas.

“We’re seeing critically dry surface fuels and some fire potential that could be seen in the winds, as well,” Stafford said.

The Texas A&M Forest Service and local fire

departments are responding to wildfires primarily being started by people burning debris.

“We’re seeing increased fire response, primarily in East Texas, Central Texas, and the primary cause of that is debris burning,” Stafford said. “People are out in the yard. They’re enjoying the cool weather, taking advantage of the nice dry days, and they’re burning their yard debris. Those debris piles are starting to get away and are causing the majority of our wildfires right now.”

The number of counties with a burn ban continues to increase. As the dry pattern continues, more counties are expected to implement bans.

“We are expecting to see more drying continue through the next month or two,” Stafford said.

As of mid-October, 56% of pastures are rated poor to very

poor, and over 70% of the state is experiencing drought conditions.

It is important for Texans to be mindful of the increased risk of fire, Stafford said.

TFS has additional fire prevention tips, as well as information on local resources and the current fire situations, at [tfsweb.tamu.edu](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu).

For current burn ban information, visit [tfsweb.tamu.edu/BurnBans](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/BurnBans).

### On This Day in Texas History

October 21, 1917

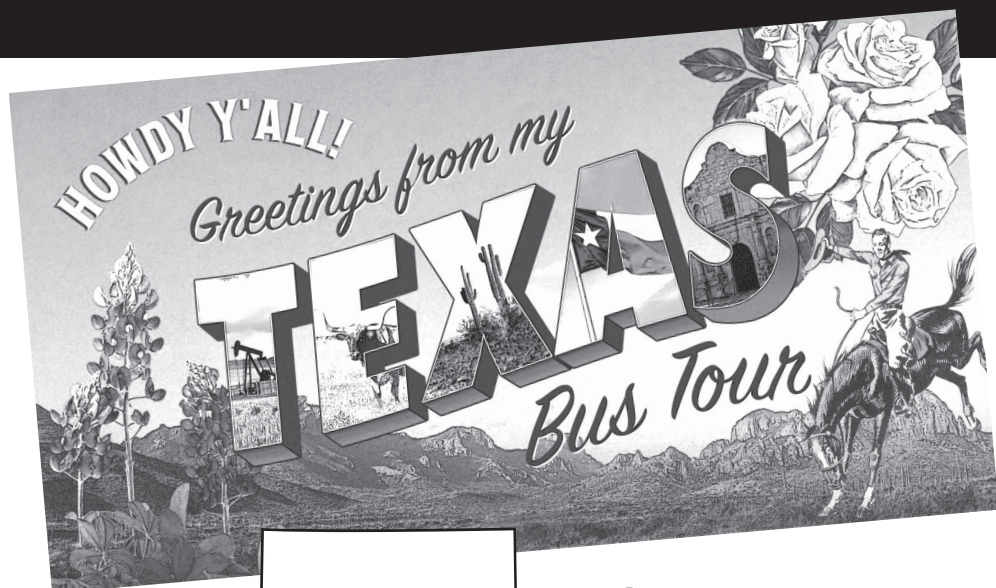
On this day in 1917, McClesky No. 1 came in. This oil well began the boom in Ranger, Texas. By June 1919 twenty-two wells were being drilled in the area and eight refineries were open or under construction. Ranger may have had 30,000 residents at one time. Pictures from the boom days show derricks sprouting up like trees throughout the town.



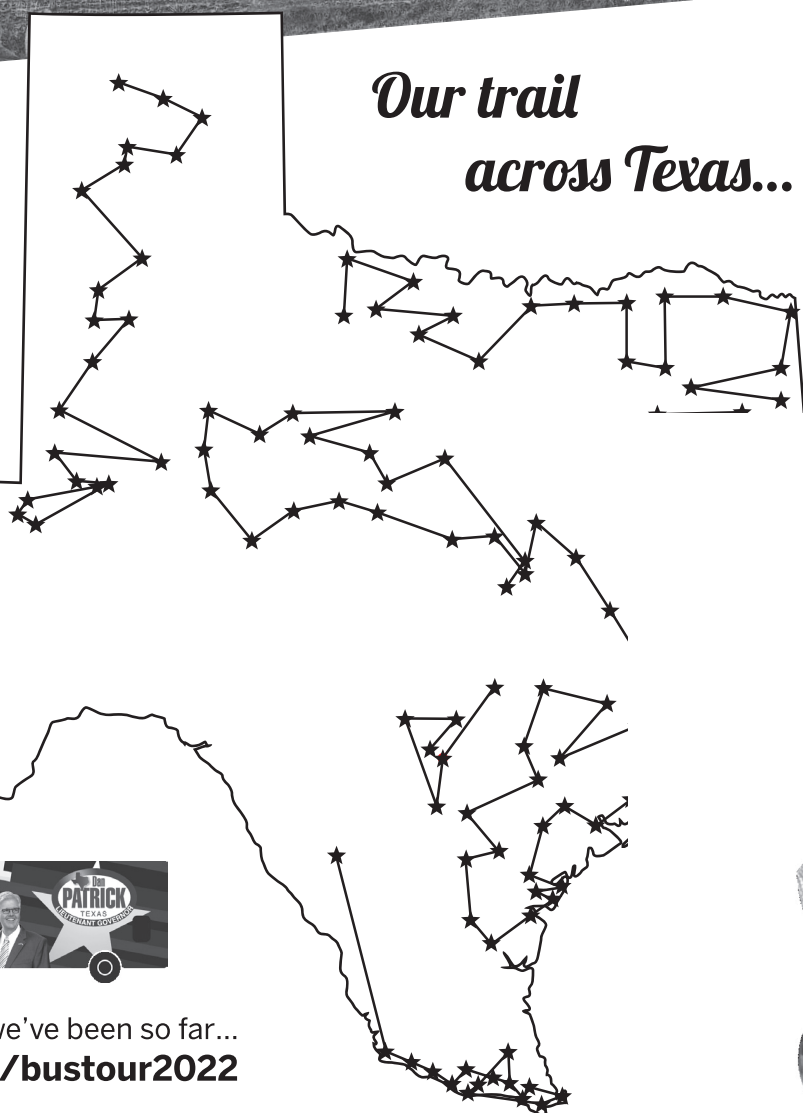
**Royalty!** Bronte ISD recently held their homecoming festivities for 2022. Jett Jackson was crowned Homecoming King with Emmy Speary as Homecoming Queen.

The boom also brought the frequent killings in the oilfields. usual social accompaniments-- By 1921, however, the boom was gambling houses, brothels, and over.

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- ✓ Dan Patrick passed the largest education funding increase in Texas history as well as kept his promise to increase teachers' salaries.
- ✓ Dan Patrick has done more to increase access to mental health services for Texas families than any Lieutenant Governor in Texas history, including allocating over \$1 billion to build and renovate state mental health hospitals and investing over \$200 million for a state program to help parents access mental health services for their children and increase programs to prevent suicide and violence.
- ✓ Dan Patrick believes parents should be listened to and treated with respect by local school boards, administrators, and teachers, and he will pass a Parental Rights Bill.

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**Election Day:** November 8 ★ **Early Voting:** October 24 - November 4