

...West of 98

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Rural America has been on a downward trajectory for a half century. The reasons for these trends are large, complicated, and bigger than any one of our communities. The world tells us that rural America and our rural communities are a lost cause. How can we overcome that? Are there enough of us to do what all needs to be done? The world tells us that it would be easier, that our lives and families would be better off, if we just packed it all in and moved to a faceless subdivision somewhere.

And then, I look around my community. I see the faces of its people. I see the quality of those people. Whatever doubt I have starts to evaporate. In fact, the idea that rural America is a lost cause only redoubles my commitment to Stamford and to rural America. For the most part, rural places were never settled because they were easy. In fact, it's quite the opposite. The frontier was settled by people who eschewed the relative ease of settled areas. Those pioneers pushed to new places, not for ease, but for opportunity - no matter their previous lot in life, no matter their family's history, they could still make something of themselves and leave a life better than the one that they were given.

The same holds true for rural America today. It's not the easy choice to make a life here, but our communities have never been the "easy" choice. But we're still here for a reason. We're here because of the powerful impact these places had on our lives, because of opportunity, because of the quality of the people.

The world encourages self doubt in our lives. It's easy to think that you are not worthy of the challenges faced by your community, or that your community itself isn't worthy. But don't forget. Our communities are worthy. We are worthy. YOU are worthy.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

Color Run/Fun Walk set for August 25

The Robert Lee Junior High Cheerleaders will be hosting a 5K Color Run/1K Fun Walk on Saturday, August 25, 2018, at the Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The first heat will start from the Club House at 8 am, with the second heat immediately following. Color will be provided and extra color will be available for purchase, as well as any available Color Run t-shirts.

Entry forms may be picked up from and returned to the Robert Lee High School office beginning July 30 from 9 am until 3 pm or may be printed from the "Robert Lee Athletics" Facebook page.

All proceeds benefit the

2018-2019 Robert Lee Junior High Dogie Cheerleaders. Donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated! For more information, contact Shanna Freeman by phone at (325) 453-4555 or by email at shanna.freeman@rlisd.net.

Please come out and make this a fun family event for the whole community!

Fort Chadbourne fundraiser slated for September 15

Fort Chadbourne will be presenting "The Lion of Texas, An Evening with Sam Houston, on Saturday, September 15, at the fort. The annual fundraiser will begin with a dinner and silent auction starting at 6 pm, followed by the show at 7:30 pm. This highly acclaimed one-

man show gives the audience an intimate look at the icon who became the hero of San Jacinto and the first president of the Republic of Texas. The show is written and performed by a Texan who is actually name Sam Houston.

For information or reservations, please contact Fort Chadbourne at (325) 743-2555.

Car Show scheduled for September 29

A car show will be held in Robert Lee on Saturday, September 29, from 10 am until 2 pm, at the Municipal Park.

Categories include 1900 - 1940 Class, 1940 - 1960 Class, 1960 - 1980 Class, 1980 - 2000 Class, 2000 - Current Class, 4x4 and Offroad, Unfinished, and Motorcycles.

Door prizes and cash prizes will be given away, along with trophies to be awarded.

For more information, contact Chris Smith at (325) 656-3455 or DeShira Smith at (325) 656-3481.

Town Hall Meeting set for September 26

Restoring Bronte Foundation will host a town hall meeting and board meeting on Wednesday, September 26. The meeting will be held from 6 pm until 9 pm at the Blue Goose in downtown Bronte.

BVFD to host Fun Run October 6

The Bronte Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Fun Run on Saturday, October 6, with the registration beginning at 7 am and the race

to commence at 8 am.

Early registration is encouraged, as everyone who registers by September 22 will receive a free t-shirt.

For more information, contact the City of Bronte at (325) 473-3501.

Red Canyon Gun Club to be closed through November 30

The Red Canyon Gun Club will be closed from approximately through approximately November 30, 2018, for AEP construction. This closure is for the members and the construction crews safety. The club apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Shaunna Grantham at(325) 895-1723.

Water Weekly

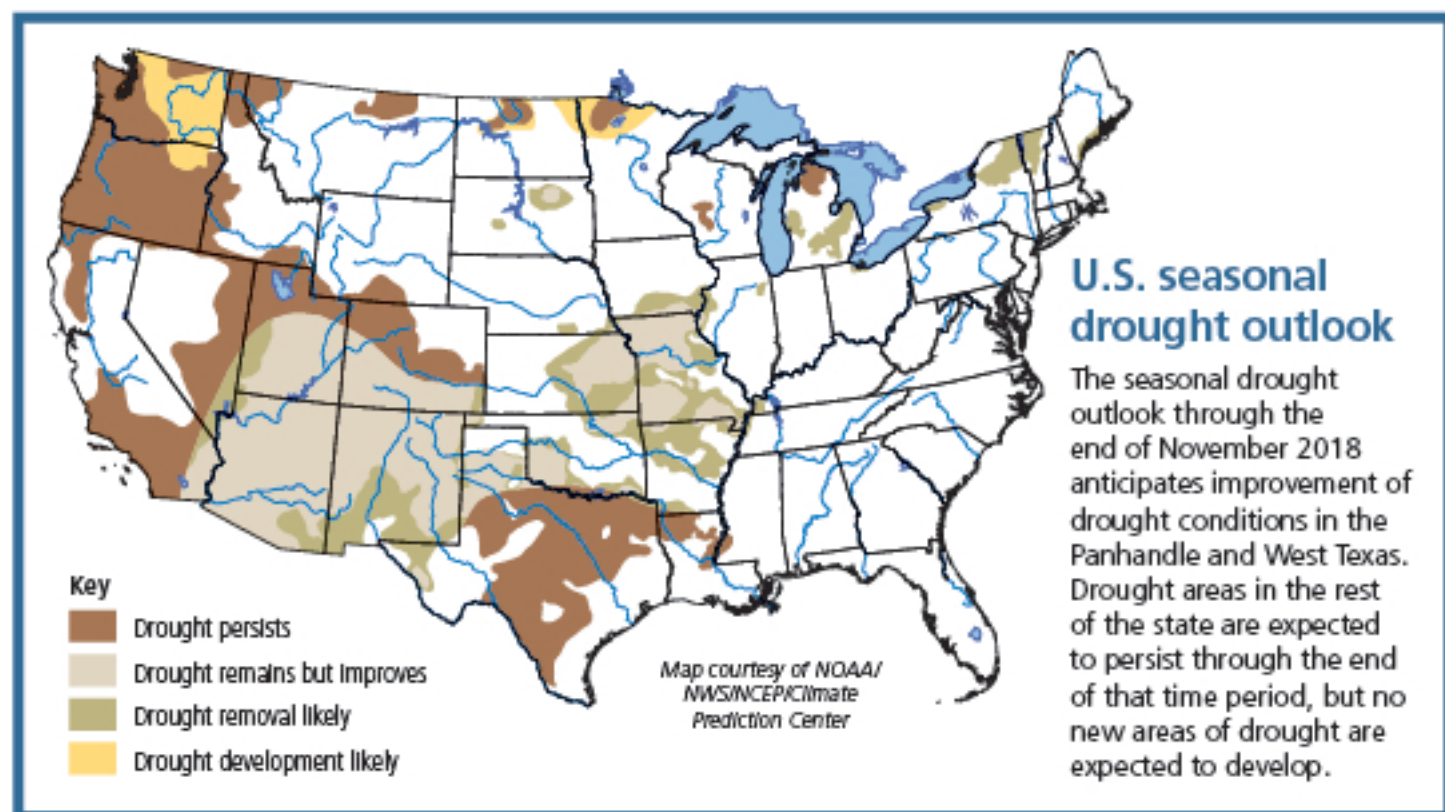
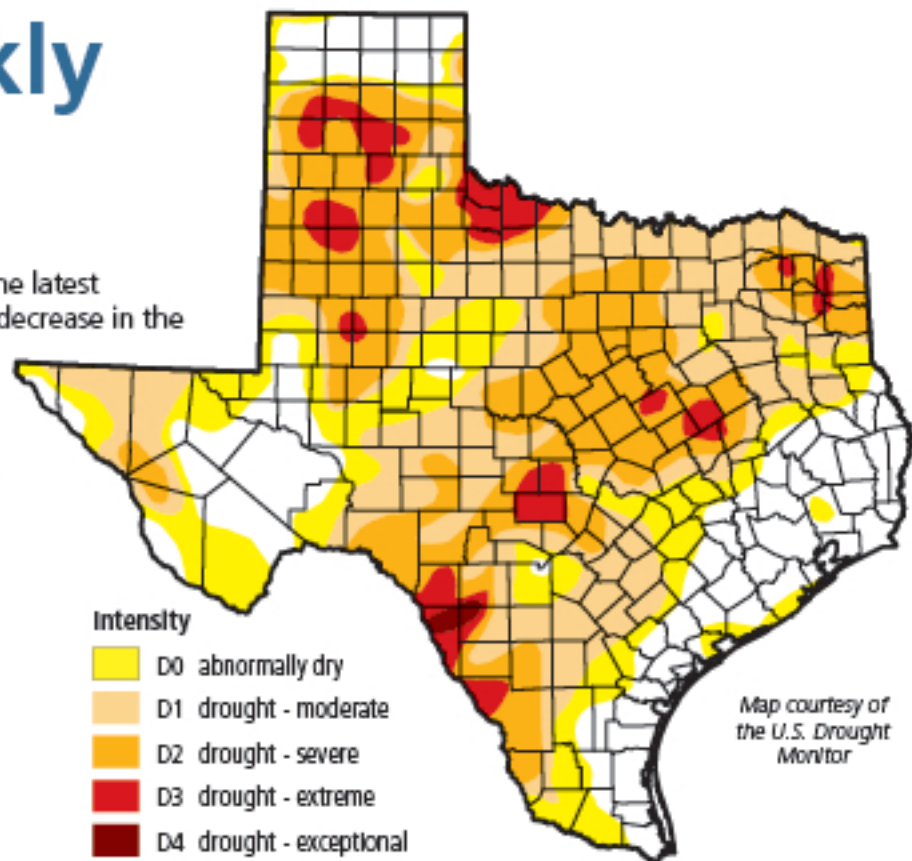
For the week of 08/20/18

Water conditions

After three weeks of increasing drought, the latest drought map shows a 5 percentage point decrease in the area of the state impacted by drought. That improvement came thanks to beneficial rains that fell August 10 to August 14 and brought 2 or more inches of precipitation to many areas.

Drought conditions

- ◆ 59% now
- ◆ 64% a week ago
- ◆ 43% three months ago
- ◆ 1% a year ago



Written by Dr. Mark Wentzel — Dr. Mark Wentzel is a hydrologist in the TWDB's Office of Water Science and Conservation.

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