

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

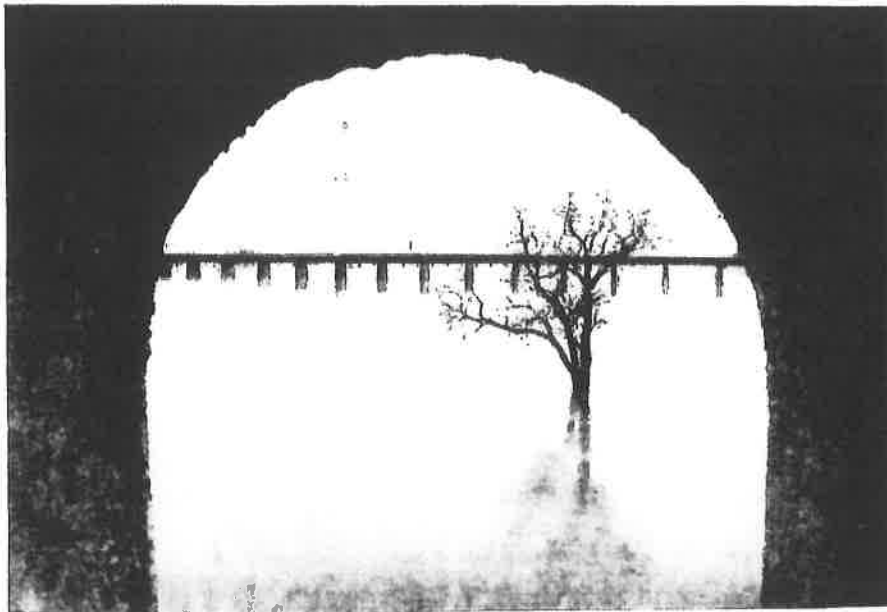
Dallasnews.com

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Rain, cold blanket D-FW

Moderate drought ends in dramatic fashion, with more storms to come

WEATHER



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

The Trinity River overflowed its banks Wednesday, as seen near the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in Dallas. Dallas Fire-Rescue searched for a vehicle that witnesses say drove into the Trinity River in southeast Oak Cliff on Wednesday morning.

By **LOYD BRUMFIELD**
and **MATT PETERSON**
Staff Writers

Two days of steady rain this week have swamped Dallas-Fort Worth and made short work of a moderate drought, but rising waters also led to rescues in McKinney and Dallas on Wednesday, and one vehicle reported swept away in southeast Oak Cliff was

still missing.

By Wednesday evening, DFW International Airport had recorded more than 3 1/2 inches of rain in the past two days, with three more days of wet weather still to come, according to the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

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Joe S. Lee/Staff Photographer

Ice coats a plant on the Denton County Courthouse square. A winter weather advisory took hold in areas near Fort Worth and to the north, causing some school districts to shut down for the day.

That amounts to just more than 5 inches for the year at the airport, well above normal. Just a few days ago, there was a 1-inch deficit, and grass fires were a major concern.

Flooding was the biggest danger Wednesday for Dallas and Collin, among other eastern counties, with a flood advisory in effect until midnight.

To the west, a winter weather advisory, in effect until noon Thursday, replaced a more severe ice storm warning. Some schools shut down for the day as a result.

Temperatures fell into the 20s in some parts of Wise

County, and iced-over roads were a problem in Jacksboro and other areas.

Most of Dallas-Fort Worth dodged the ice Wednesday, but Thursday could be a different story, with the potential for icy conditions in western Tarrant County and Denton County.

"I don't expect any rain overnight," KXAS-TV (NBC5) chief meteorologist Rick Mitchell said as the rain tapered off Wednesday evening, "but the next batch arrives tomorrow morning."

Dallas residents can expect temperatures to stay above

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Rain-swollen D-FW has more storms ahead



Rose Baca/Staff Photographer

The Trinity River at Great Trinity Forest Way was at about 25 feet around 11 a.m., the highest it has been this year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Flooding was the biggest danger on Wednesday, with a flood advisory in effect until midnight.

freezing Thursday morning and rise into the mid-40s as another soggy day comes and goes.

And there's even more rain in the forecast through Saturday.

According to NBC5 meteorologists, Friday was expected to be another big rain day, with chances near 100 percent and high temperatures in the

low 60s.

"Then on Saturday, we've got another front pushing in with maybe some pretty good thunderstorms," senior meteorologist David Finrock said.

Temperatures are expected to approach 70 by the end of the week, and North Texas should begin to dry out by Sunday.

Wednesday afternoon, ris-

ing waters forced Dallas Fire-Rescue to suspend its search for a vehicle that witnesses say went into the Trinity River on Wednesday morning.

Authorities said that they received reports around 10:15 a.m. of a white car going into the river near the 4700 block of Great Trinity Forest Way and getting swept away, according to KDFW-TV (Channel 4).

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Rescue workers with the department were on scene about half an hour later and sent boats out to search for the vehicle.

The search was suspended around 1 p.m. without the vehicle being located.

"The weather conditions are too bad [to continue the search]," Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans said. "River conditions are only worsening."

The Trinity River at Great Trinity Forest Way was at about 25 feet around 11 a.m., the highest it has been this year, according to data from the U.S. Geological Survey.

In Frisco, about 2 million gallons overflowed from three sewage manholes west of the Stewart Creek wastewater treatment plant beginning Tuesday and lasting into Wednesday, city officials said.

The overflows occurred because of an undetected power failure at the plant. The sanitary issues had no effect on the city's drinking water, which is still safe, officials said.

The city expected to have the runoff contained by the end of Wednesday, officials said.

In McKinney, fire crews rescued four people from cars swept away by flooding in

Towne Lake Park. Two walked out on their own while the other two were brought in by boat.

Authorities closed roads around the park because the area is prone to flood during heavy rains.

Late Tuesday, Dallas Fire-Rescue crews rescued a woman who was trapped on top of her vehicle at Interstate 635 and Park Central Drive, near White Rock Creek in North Dallas. She was not hospitalized.

On Tuesday, Dallas Fire-Rescue reported 20 emergency calls for water rescues, mostly for drivers whose vehicles entered high water and stalled, Evans said.

The weather was also blamed for a crash that shut down Interstate 35W near Altamesa Boulevard around 3 a.m. Wednesday in Fort Worth. An 18-wheeler lost control, hit a retaining wall and spilled fuel on the highway.

The driver was not hurt.

Staff writers Marc Ramirez, Claire Z. Cardona and Jacob Prothro contributed to this report.

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Dallas, Texas, Thursday, February 15, 2018 DALLASNEWS

Troubled waters

Texas needs a new approach to water management before it's too late, says Sarah Richards

Population growth and climate change stretch water resources and endanger Texas' natural gems like Barton Springs in Austin.



Texas summer days are filled with the gasps and laughter of children as they cannonball into cold, refreshing spring-fed swimming holes like Jacob's Well, San Solomon Springs or Barton Springs.

The future of these Texas icons is in jeopardy as population growth and climate change stretch thin our precious water resources and complicate water management during our infamous weather extremes. The current water management paradigm in Texas does not adequately promote sustainable water management or, quite frankly, place a priority on sustaining the needs of our environment.

These challenges, however, are not unique to Texas. Across the United States and throughout the world, community leaders, water planners, and policymakers are wrestling

with how best to manage water to maximize economic and social welfare equitably without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. Some are rethinking our traditional urban water management practices and working to advance a more resilient strategy called integrated water management, or One Water.

The concept of a coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources is not new although related policies and practices in Texas and across our nation are severely out of sync. Clear leadership is needed to drive a paradigm shift.

One Water promotes the management of all water within a specific geography — drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and grey water — as a single resource, a resource that must be managed holistically, viably and sustainably.

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Texas needs a new approach to water management before it's too late, says Sarah Richards

This involves:

1. Community decisions, not utility decisions. A One Water approach asks a community to consider and manage all water it holistically. The days of feeding vast Texas lawns with water so pure a newborn baby could drink it should cease immediately. The practice of funneling stormwater into concrete culverts should stop as soon as possible. And, municipal hierarchies that afford the city water utility the right to make water supply decisions independent of the stormwater manager or even the parks department or energy utility should become a thing of the past.

Instead, a community, and all the city management branches that affect water, should consider all water available in their system and all water needs (including drinking, parks, energy production and delivery, and maintaining natural assets) alongside one another. This approach avoids the false choice of working for the economy or environment or society and, rather, recognizes the critical importance of sustaining the community's water resources for the public good.

2. Collaboration is the essential building block. Under the current system of water management, different streams of water are compartmentalized and managed in almost complete isolation from one another. Collaboration is critical for making decisions that are truly in the best interest of the community and water resources. These practices, however, don't come easily. Collaboration, often times between disparate audiences, requires committed leadership, common sense, political capital,

a diversity of participants and institutions, and the right supporting tools and techniques.

3. It's not going to be easy, but if anyone can do it, Texans can. A transition to a One Water approach is inevitable but can be a painstaking and challenging journey for our communities. One Water is challenged by the inertia that comes with any systemic change, particularly a system that's been the default practice for decades.

Yet it's because of the leadership and tenacity of a few innovators that we see examples of One Water by state agencies and in cities across Texas. Texas is the national leader in water reuse. The State Water Implementation Fund of Texas, with its 20 percent conservation set-aside, puts real money on the table for conservation. The city of Austin is developing a 100-year integrated water resource plan; cities like Arlington and Mesquite are embracing green infrastructure in new and innovative ways; and Fort Worth is taking resource recovery to new heights.

The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation is committed to supporting Texas's transition to One Water and sustaining our state's water resources. With an eye on the future, we aim to inform change-makers and fuel solutions to manage our water for generations to come.



*Sarah Richards is the water program officer for the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. This column is an excerpt prepared for The Dallas Morning News from the foundation's new report, *Advancing One Water in Texas*.*

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Saturday, February 10, 2018

Business

RELOCATIONS

Half a million new Texans in a year Texas keeps packing in the people

California's loss was
Lone Star State's gain
in 2016, report says

By **STEVE BROWN**
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More than a half-million new residents move to Texas annually, according to the latest estimates by the Texas Association of Realtors.

Texas had the second-highest total of moves in the country in 2016, behind only Florida, according to the latest census data analysis by the Texas Association of Realtors.

"Despite slowing job and economic growth over the last two years, housing-market and population growth have remained strong and steady throughout the state," Kaki Lybbert, 2018 chairman of the Texas Association of Realtors, said in the report.

"With more than half a million people moving here each year, it's evident that the Lone Star State fosters a positive environment for business development and raising a family," Lybbert noted in the report.

Where are they moving?

More than a half-million people a year are moving to Texas. And Dallas-Fort Worth is getting the biggest share of the newcomers. Based on annual moves into Texas in 2016.

Dallas-Fort Worth	123,661
Houston	104,811
Austin	48,210
San Antonio	43,494

SOURCE: Texas Association of Realtors

Staff Graphic

The study found that almost half of the people moving to Texas originated from outside of the U.S.

The largest volumes of people moving from U.S. states to Texas came from California (69,945), Florida (31,145), Oklahoma (30,532), Louisiana (27,998) and Illinois (21,848).

California had a net loss of 142,932 residents in 2016, according to the Realtors' report.

The largest share of out-

of-state moves to Texas came from the Los Angeles, New York and Chicago metro areas.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area had the biggest share of the annual moves — 123,661 new residents during the year.

Four more of the top 10 counties for moves from outside the state were in North Texas, including Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton counties, according to the Realtors.

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**NORTH
TEXAS
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WATER
DISTRICT**

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Power Outage Causes Sanitary Sewer Overflow in City of Frisco Near NTMWD Stewart Creek West Wastewater Treatment Plant; No Threat to Drinking Water

(Wylie, Texas – Feb. 21, 2018) The North Texas Municipal Water District experienced a power outage last night at approximately 7:45 p.m. at its Stewart Creek West Wastewater Treatment Plant in the City of Frisco. Power was restored at 5:43 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21. As a result, a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) occurred in the City of Frisco's sanitary sewer collection system. This event did not impact the NTMWD potable water system; drinking water delivered by the City of Frisco is safe for human use and consumption. The City of Frisco has issued a media release that can be found through the following link:

<https://www.friscotexas.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=423>

City of Frisco staff estimates the volume of the sanitary sewer overflow at approximately two million gallons. This overflow entered Stewart Creek and combined with and diluted by stormwater runoff. Because of ongoing wet conditions, City of Frisco staff expects this event to be contained by the end of Wednesday.

Again, the SSO did not impact the NTMWD potable water system; drinking water delivered by NTMWD is safe for human use and consumption. Environmental assessments are underway, and any detectable downstream environmental impacts will be treated in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil or water in the impacted area.

About NTMWD

The North Texas Municipal Water District is a regional wholesale provider of water, wastewater and solid waste disposal services for 1.7 million residents in the north Texas counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Rains, and Rockwall – a service territory covering 2,200 square miles. For more information, visit NTMWD.com.

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