

# Rivers drying up across South Texas



Photos by William Luther/Staff photographer

Not much remains of the Llano River under Roy B. Inks bridge. A U.S. Geological Survey river gauge recorded a flow rate of less than 1 cubic foot per second Wednesday, according to web data. The typical rate for this time of year is about 100 cfs.

## No relief in sight for waterways after months of drought and high heat

By Elena Bruess  
STAFF WRITER

Several rivers in South Central Texas are drying up with little to no relief in sight.

After months of drought and high heat in the San Antonio area, flow rates in some rivers this year have decreased to almost zero, threatening local ecosystems and limiting summer recreation. The next two weeks in the region will continue to bring intense heat — some days forecast to reach 104 degrees Fahrenheit with an even higher heat index due to humidity.

At the northern half of the Guadalupe River Basin, near Hunt, the flow rate is an all-time low of 6.84 cubic feet per second, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and continuing to drop. By comparison, when the region experienced severe drought in 2011, the flow rate dropped to 6.96 cfs. In New Braunfels, there is still flow in the Guadalupe River, but it is much lower than average. The flow rate there is 58.5 cfs, well below the historical median of 346 cfs.

While Texas ecosystems are accustomed to recurring drought, constantly



The Guadalupe River — usually flowing at about 80 cfs this time of year — is down to just 3 cfs, according to a USGS river gauge in James Kiehl River Bend Park.

diminished flow can inhibit animals that depend on the river from recovering, especially ones — such as mussels — that are slower to move to fuller areas of a given river. Low flow rates can also cause

stagnant water, which can lead to an increase in harmful algae blooms and bacteria growth.

Near Fredericksburg, the flow rate in

**Rivers continues on A4**

# Major abortion provider moving to N. Mexico

By Rebecca Carballo  
STAFF WRITER

One of the nation's largest independent abortion providers said Wednesday it is pulling out of Texas and plans to open a clinic in New Mexico to support Texans and others facing limited abortion access after the Supreme Court overturned the Roe v. Wade decision.

Whole Woman's Health has operated in Texas for nearly two decades, getting its start in Austin in 2003, and later expanding throughout the state. The organization operated four clinics in Austin, McAllen, Fort Worth and McKinney before Roe was overturned.

The clinic is still searching for a site and seeking financial support from the public to make the move, Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Woman's Health said in a statement.

"Even when the courts and the politicians have turned their backs on Texans, we never will," said Hagstrom Miller said. "With the shuttering of our four Texas clinics, we do not have the financial reserves to open in New Mexico. We are asking for your help as we vacate our Texas clinics, move our needed equipment and supplies, buy and renovate a new clinic building, relocate and hire staff, and set up Whole Woman's Health of New Mexico."

The departure of Whole Woman's Health underscores the reality that providers and women face after the Supreme Court struck down constitutional protection of the right to obtain an abortion. Following the June 24 decision, abortion has or soon will become illegal in 26 states, including Texas.

Dr. Rola El-Serag, director of the Center for Health and Biosciences at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, said the loss of Roe's protections is not only ending access to abortion, but also undermining advocacy for women's health as groups such as Whole Woman's Health leaves these states.

It is advocacy that is sorely needed, said El-Serag.

Among developed nations, the United States has the highest rate of women dying from complications with their preg-

**Abortion continues on A4**



Bob Owen/Staff file photo

Texas A&M University-San Antonio announced a \$2.1 million gift from the Hector and Gloria López Foundation.

## Latinos get a boost at A&M-San Antonio

By Danya Perez  
STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M University-San Antonio officials are celebrating a \$2.1 million gift, the second largest in the university's history and one intended to financially support Latino students.

The grant by the Hector and Gloria López Foundation is slated to help cover up to five

years of tuition, fees and other college expenses for 15 students who will be named López Scholars.

"A&M-SA is the right partner for one of two inaugural grants the Foundation announced this week," Sergio Rodríguez, the foundation's president and CEO and nephew of Hector and Gloria López, said

**Boost continues on A5**

# As border fight heats up, feds open probe on Abbott's mission

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating potential civil rights violations in Texas' multibillion-dollar border security mission that has given the National Guard arrest powers and seen state authorities bus migrants to Washington, D.C., according to public records.

A lawyer for the state police agency acknowledged the federal probe of Gov. Greg Abbott's initiative to curb people crossing from Mexico in a May email, records obtained by ProPublica and the Texas Tribune show. The state prison system also cited a "formal investigation" in a letter seeking to withhold public records related to Operation Lone Star.

The investigation comes to light as a human smuggling attempt that left 53 people dead in a sweltering tractor-trailer highlights the limits of state and federal border controls. Crossings along the entire southern border are at or near their highest point in about two decades.



Jerry Lara/Staff photographer

The Justice Department is investigating Operation Lone Star for civil rights abuses against migrants.

Last year, Abbott, a Republican seeking re-election, rolled out a massive law enforcement apparatus on the border, alleging inaction by President Joe Biden's administration. The surge in officers has driven arrests — including for trespassing, low-level amounts of marijuana and

other minor crimes that appear to have little to do with border security. Some of those detained have spent weeks in state jails.

The emails from Texas Department of Public Safety officials indicate federal authorities are looking at whether the oper-

**Border continues on A5**