

...WEST CENTRAL TEXAS WEATHER SUMMARY FOR 2009...

TOTAL PRECIPITATION FOR THE YEAR VARIED FROM ABOVE TO BELOW NORMAL ACROSS WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. THIS VARIABILITY EXTENDED ACROSS INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES. FOR MUCH OF THE REGION...THE YEARLY AMOUNTS WERE BELOW NORMAL. THE ABOVE NORMAL AMOUNTS OCCURRED IN SCATTERED AREAS ACROSS THE NORTHWESTERN CONCHO VALLEY...NORTHERN EDWARDS PLATEAU... SOUTHERN HEARTLAND...AND NORTHWEST HILL COUNTRY.

THE AVERAGE ANNUAL TEMPERATURE WAS ABOVE NORMAL.

AT ABILENE REGIONAL AIRPORT...THE ANNUAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR 2009 WAS 65.1 DEGREES. THIS WAS 0.7 DEGREES ABOVE THE NORMAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 64.4 DEGREES. TOTAL PRECIPITATION FOR THE YEAR WAS 21.56 INCHES. THIS WAS 2.22 INCHES BELOW THE NORMAL ANNUAL PRECIPITATION OF 23.78 INCHES. TOTAL SNOWFALL FOR THE YEAR AT ABILENE WAS 6.5 INCHES...UNOFFICIALLY. THIS WAS 1.6 INCHES ABOVE THE NORMAL YEARLY SNOWFALL OF 4.9 INCHES.

AT SAN ANGELO REGIONAL AIRPORT...THE ANNUAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR 2009 WAS 66.8 DEGREES. THIS WAS 2.3 DEGREES ABOVE THE NORMAL ANNUAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 64.5 DEGREES. TOTAL PRECIPITATION FOR THE YEAR WAS 25.54 INCHES. THIS WAS 4.63 INCHES ABOVE THE NORMAL ANNUAL PRECIPITATION OF 20.91 INCHES. TOTAL SNOWFALL FOR THE YEAR AT SAN ANGELO WAS 1.7 INCHES. THIS WAS 1.2 INCHES BELOW THE NORMAL YEARLY SNOWFALL OF 2.9 INCHES.

* WINTER WEATHER *

FOR THE WINTER MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY...A WARMER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL PATTERN PREVAILED. FEBRUARY WAS THE 4TH WARMEST ON RECORD FOR SAN ANGELO AND 8TH WARMEST FOR ABILENE. ON JANUARY 22ND...THE COMBINATION OF UNSEASONABLY WARM TEMPERATURES...SOMEWHAT GUSTY WINDS AND A VERY DRY AIRMASS RESULTED IN AN ELEVATED FIRE DANGER ACROSS MUCH OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. WITH THESE CONDITIONS...A GRASS FIRE OCCURRED ABOUT 10 TO 15 MILES NORTH OF ABILENE...IN JONES COUNTY. THIS FIRE PROMPTED EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS. THE FIRE CONSUMED EIGHT HOMES...AND ABOUT 20 BARNS AND OUTBUILDINGS.

A WINTER MIX OF PRECIPITATION OCCURRED ON JANUARY 26-27.

THE MAIN WINTER WEATHER EVENTS...HOWEVER...OCCURRED IN DECEMBER. ABILENE RECORDED ITS 9TH COLDEST DECEMBER. WITH A RATHER ACTIVE WEATHER PATTERN IN THE EARLY AND LATE PARTS OF DECEMBER...SEVERAL WINTER PRECIPITATION EVENTS OCCURRED IN WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. THE ARRIVAL OF A STORM SYSTEM ON DECEMBER 2ND BROUGHT A CHANGE FROM RAIN TO SNOW ACROSS THE BIG COUNTRY. SNOWFALL AMOUNTS UP TO 2 INCHES OCCURRED IN THE ABILENE AREA...AND A FEW LOCATIONS EAST OF ABILENE RECEIVED 2.5 TO 5 INCHES OF SNOW.

A STRONG UPPER LEVEL DISTURBANCE BROUGHT SNOW TO A LARGE PART OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS SOUTH OF INTERSTATE 20 ON THE 3RD. SNOWFALL AMOUNTS OF 1 TO 2 INCHES WERE REPORTED ACROSS MUCH OF THE CONCHO VALLEY...SOUTHERN HEARTLAND...AND INTO SOUTHERN PARTS OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. SOME FREEZING DRIZZLE OCCURRED ACROSS THE BIG

COUNTRY ON DECEMBER 7-8.

A MAJOR WINTER WEATHER EVENT OCCURRED LATE IN DECEMBER...WHEN AN INTENSIFYING STORM SYSTEM TRACKED FROM NEW MEXICO EAST ACROSS WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. THIS SYSTEM BROUGHT A COMBINATION OF MODERATE TO HEAVY SNOW AND STRONG GUSTY WINDS TO THE BIG COUNTRY ON THE 24TH. THIS CREATED WHITEOUT AND NEAR BLIZZARD CONDITIONS. THOSE CONDITIONS ARE VERY RARELY OBSERVED THIS FAR SOUTH IN THE U.S. SNOWFALL AMOUNTS RANGED FROM 4 TO 6 INCHES ACROSS THE BIG COUNTRY. FARTHER TO THE SOUTH...SNOWFALL OF 2 INCHES OCCURRED IN THE NORTHERN HEARTLAND.

ANOTHER SNOW EVENT OCCURRED ACROSS MUCH OF THE NORTHERN HALF OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS ON THE 29TH...WITH THE APPROACH AND ARRIVAL OF A STRONG UPPER LEVEL DISTURBANCE. SNOWFALL AMOUNTS AROUND 1 INCH OCCURRED ACROSS THE BIG COUNTRY...WITH AN INCH OR LESS FARTHER SOUTH ACROSS PARTS OF THE CONCHO VALLEY AND HEARTLAND.

* SPRING AND SEVERE WEATHER *

THE MORE NOTABLE WEATHER EVENTS FROM MARCH TO JUNE INCLUDED A FEW HIGH WIND EVENTS...A COUPLE OF HEATBURSTS...AND SEVERAL SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS.

STRONG GUSTY WEST TO NORTHWEST WINDS OCCURRED IN ASSOCIATION WITH A VERY POTENT UPPER LEVEL DISTURBANCE WHICH MOVED INTO THE REGION ON FEBRUARY 10TH. PEAK WIND GUSTS INCLUDED 55 MPH AT SAN ANGELO...AND 52 MPH AT ABILENE AND JUNCTION. THESE STRONG WINDS DOWNDIED SEVERAL POWER LINES IN ABILENE...AND DOWNDIED SOME TREES IN

SAN ANGELO.

A POTENT UPPER LEVEL STORM SYSTEM AND ARRIVAL OF A COLD FRONT BROUGHT STRONG GUSTY WEST TO NORTHWEST WINDS TO NORTHERN AND CENTRAL SECTIONS OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS...ON APRIL 2ND. PEAK WINDS REACHED 58 MPH AT SAN ANGELO AND 57 MPH AT ABILENE.

ANOTHER STORM SYSTEM BROUGHT STRONG GUSTY WINDS...WARM AND VERY DRY AIR ON APRIL 9TH. THE STRONGEST WINDS AFFECTED THE BIG COUNTRY. PEAK WIND GUSTS REACHED 58 MPH AT ABILENE AND 52 MPH AT SAN ANGELO. WITH THE COMBINATION OF WINDS...WARM TEMPERATURES AND VERY DRY AIR...SEVERAL GRASS FIRES OCCURRED ACROSS THE REGION.

VERY STRONG WINDS OCCURRED ACROSS A SMALL PART OF THE CONCHO VALLEY...FROM BIG LAKE TO SAN ANGELO...ON THE APRIL 26TH. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF SUBSIDING AIR FROM SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO THE SOUTH...AND POSSIBLY FROM A LOCALIZED HEATBURST EVENT. HEATBURSTS ARE UNCOMMON WEATHER EVENTS. A PEAK WIND GUST OF 63 MPH WAS RECORDED AT THE SAN ANGELO REGIONAL AIRPORT. THESE HIGH WINDS CAUSED MULTIPLE POWER OUTAGES IN THE SAN ANGELO AREA.

ON JUNE 6TH...A HEATBURST EVENT OCCURRED FROM THE SWEETWATER TO THE ABILENE AREAS. SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS DEVELOPED ALONG A DRYLINE AND MOVED EAST ACROSS THE NORTHERN CONCHO VALLEY AND SOUTHERN BIG COUNTRY. AS THESE STORMS DISSIPATED...THEY PRODUCED A HEATBURST. A HEATBURST IS AN UNCOMMON PHENOMENON...ACCOMPANIED BY A RAPID RISE IN TEMPERATURES AND A RAPID DROP IN RELATIVE HUMIDITY. A HEATBURST PRODUCES STRONG AND SOMETIMES DAMAGING

WINDS. WITH THIS HEATBURST...WIND GUSTS REACHED 61 MPH AT SWEETWATER AND 63 MPH AT ABILENE. SOME WIND DAMAGE TO TREES AND POWER LINES WAS REPORTED IN THE ABILENE AREA.

THE MOST CONCENTRATED SEVERE WEATHER OCCURRED DURING MAY AND THE FIRST HALF OF JUNE.

ON MAY 1ST...A FEW SUPERCELL SEVERE STORMS DEVELOPED AND MOVED SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ACROSS PARTS OF THE BIG COUNTRY. A TORNADO WAS REPORTED WITH THE FIRST STORM 5 MILES SOUTHWEST OF O'BRIEN (HASKELL COUNTY) AND 3 MILES NORTH OF RULE. THIS STORM ALSO PRODUCED VERY LARGE HAIL...FROM BASEBALL TO SOFTBALL SIZE...IN WESTERN HASKELL COUNTY.

A TORNADO WAS REPORTED FROM ANOTHER STORM 5 MILES NORTHEAST OF HAMBY (SHACKELFORD COUNTY). GOLFBALL SIZE HAIL WAS REPORTED FROM A STORM 7 MILES NORTHEAST OF ROBY (FISHER COUNTY).

A SIGNIFICANT SEVERE WEATHER EVENT OCCURRED ACROSS THE HEARTLAND ON MAY 8TH. A LARGE SUPERCELL THUNDERSTORM...WHICH DEVELOPED NORTHEAST OF BROWN COUNTY...MAINTAINED ITSELF WHILE CONTINUALLY DEVELOPING DOWN AN ADVANCING COLD FRONT. THE TRACK OF THIS STORM WAS TO THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST ACROSS BROWN...NORTHWESTERN SAN SABA COUNTY AND MCCULLOCH COUNTY.

THIS SUPERCELL STORM MAY HAVE PRODUCED A COUPLE OF TORNADOES ALONG ITS PATH. THE TOWNS OF BROWNWOOD AND EARLY WERE IMPACTED BY STRAIGHT-LINE WIND DAMAGE. IN BROWNWOOD...WIDESPREAD WIND DAMAGE OCCURRED ACROSS THE EAST-CENTRAL PART OF TOWN. THE DAMAGE

WAS CONSISTENT WITH WINDS OF 80 TO 85 MPH. THE EAST SIDE OF EARLY ALSO EXPERIENCED WIDESPREAD WIND DAMAGE. THIS DAMAGE WAS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH WINDS OF 80 TO 85 MPH. IN SAN SABA COUNTY... WIND GUSTS TO 80 MPH WERE REPORTED 3 MILES WEST OF RICHLAND SPRINGS. IN MCCULLOCH COUNTY...A WIND GUST OF 62 MPH WAS MEASURED BY THE WIND EQUIPMENT AT THE BRADY AIRPORT...AND 70 MPH WINDS WERE REPORTED IN PLACID. LARGE HAIL ALSO ACCOMPANIED THIS STORM. GOLFBALL SIZE HAIL WAS REPORTED AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS ACROSS BROWN COUNTY...AND AT A COUPLE OF LOCATIONS IN MCCULLOCH COUNTY.

VERY HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLASH FLOODING ALSO OCCURRED WITH THIS LARGE STORM. THE VERY HEAVY RAIN CAUSED FLASH FLOODING OF ROADS IN THE BROWNWOOD AREA...ALONG WITH THE FLOODING OF SOME HOMES.

A SEVERE WEATHER EVENT OCCURRED ON JUNE 2ND AFFECTED THE BIG COUNTRY...ESPECIALLY THE TOWN OF ROBY. A SEVERE STORM OVER FISHER COUNTY PRODUCED HAIL OF BASEBALL TO SOFTBALL SIZE IN THE TOWN OF ROBY...ALONG WITH DAMAGING WINDS. THE COMBINATION OF THIS VERY LARGE HAIL AND STRONG WINDS CAUSED DAMAGE TO MANY BUILDINGS IN ROBY. QUARTER SIZE HAIL WAS REPORTED IN CALLAHAN COUNTY...AND WIND DAMAGE TO POWER LINES WAS REPORTED JUST WEST OF MERKEL.

DURING THE EARLY NIGHTTIME HOURS OF THE 2ND...A COMPLEX OF STRONG STORMS MOVED SOUTHEAST ACROSS THE CONCHO VALLEY... HEARTLAND...AND INTO THE NORTHWEST HILL COUNTRY. THE VERY HEAVY RAINFALL FROM THESE STORMS CAUSED FLASH FLOODING OF

STREETS IN BROWNWOOD.

A SEVERE WEATHER AND HEAVY RAIN EVENT AFFECTED MAINLY THE BIG COUNTRY ON JUNE 10TH. NUMEROUS STRONG TO SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED ACROSS THE BIG COUNTRY. THE LARGEST HAIL WAS GOLFBALL SIZE...REPORTED AT A COUPLE OF LOCATIONS. WINDS TO 70 MPH WERE REPORTED 5 MILES WEST OF HASKELL. AN ISOLATED SEVERE STORM PRODUCED GOLFBALL SIZE HAIL IN CROCKETT COUNTY.

IN ADDITION TO THE SEVERE WEATHER...HEAVY RAINFALL FROM THE STORMS CAUSED FLASH FLOODING OF SOME ROADS IN HASKELL COUNTY. IN ALL...A TOTAL OF 17 COMBINED SEVERE WEATHER AND FLASH FLOODING REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FOR THIS EVENT.

A SEVERE WEATHER EVENT OCCURRED ACROSS PARTS OF THE HEARTLAND AND NORTHWEST HILL COUNTRY ON JUNE 12TH. A CLUSTER OF STORMS DEVELOPED OVER BROWN COUNTY...AND THEN CONTINUALLY REDEVELOPED SOUTH-SOUTHWESTWARD INTO MASON COUNTY. IN MCCULLOCH COUNTY... A ROOF WAS BLOWN OFF OF A HOUSE BY STRONG WINDS IN SOUTHWESTERN BRADY. HEAVY RAINFALL CAUSED FLASH FLOODING AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN BRADY. IN MASON COUNTY...A LARGE SUPERCELL STORM PRODUCED TENNIS BALL SIZE HAIL 13 MILES NORTH OF MASON...AND AT KATEMCY. GOLFBALL SIZE HAIL OCCURRED 10 MILES EAST OF MASON. WITH STRONG WINDS...A FEW ROOFS WERE BLOWN OFF AND TREE LIMBS WERE BROKEN IN KATEMCY. IN ALL...A TOTAL OF 20 SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FOR THIS EVENT...ALONG WITH ONE FLASH FLOODING REPORT.

A SEVERE WEATHER EVENT AFFECTED AREAS OF THE BIG COUNTRY ON THE 13...MOSTLY ACROSS THE NORTHERN BIG COUNTRY. A SUPERCELL STORM PRODUCED A TORNADO IN HASKELL COUNTY...IN THE VICINITY OF RULE. THE TORNADO WAS ONE QUARTER OF A MILE WIDE AND HAD A PATH LENGTH OF ABOUT 6 MILES. THIS STRONG TORNADO WAS RATED EF-2 ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE...WITH ESTIMATED WINDS AROUND 120 MPH. THIS TORNADO CAUSED DAMAGE TO SEVERAL HOMES AND OUTBUILDINGS...IRRIGATION SPRINKLERS AND MANY POWER POLES. LARGE HAIL...RANGING FROM NICKEL TO HALF DOLLAR SIZE... WAS ALSO REPORTED IN RULE. A TORNADO WAS ALSO REPORTED 3 MILES EAST OF STAMFORD (JONES COUNTY). HAIL TO HALF DOLLAR SIZE WAS REPORTED ON THE EAST SIDE OF ROSCOE (NOLAN COUNTY). A WIND GUST OF 68 MPH WAS MEASURED BY WIND EQUIPMENT OF A MESONET STATION 1 MILE NORTHWEST OF HASKELL...BEFORE COMMUNICATION WAS LOST WITH THE MESONET STATION. A TELEPHONE POLE WAS BLOWN DOWN AT THIS LOCATION.

* SUMMER WEATHER *

THE 10TH WARMEST SUMMER ON RECORD WAS TIED AT SAN ANGELO.

AFTER AN ACTIVE WEATHER PATTERN IN THE FIRST PART OF JUNE...A HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM ALOFT EXPANDED FROM TEXAS ACROSS MUCH OF THE SOUTHERN STATES DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH...AND DOMINATED THE WEATHER PATTERN. THIS BROUGHT HOT AND DRY WEATHER TO WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. HIGH TEMPERATURES REACHED OR EXCEEDED 100 DEGREES FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS. THE HOTTEST TEMPERATURES WERE EXPERIENCED ON JUNE 11-13. AT SAN ANGELO...A RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURE WAS SET ON THE 13TH. AT ABILENE...A RECORD

TEMPERATURE WAS TIED ON THE 13TH. SAN ANGELO RECORDED ITS 8TH WARMEST JUNE.

THE WEATHER PATTERN ACROSS THE REGION DURING JULY WAS MOSTLY INFLUENCED BY TWO ALTERNATING WEATHER REGIMES: A HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM ALOFT...AND A NORTH TO NORTHWESTERLY UPPER LEVEL FLOW PATTERN. WHEN THE HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM ALOFT WAS POSITIONED CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE REGION...HOT AND DRY CONDITIONS OCCURRED. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING JULY...THE HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM SHIFTED TO THE WEST...AND ALLOWED UPPER LEVEL DISTURBANCES AND WEAK COLD FRONTS TO MOVE INTO WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. HEAVY AND BENEFICIAL RAINFALL OCCURRED DURING THOSE OCCASIONS. AS A RESULT...TOTAL PRECIPITATION FOR THE MONTH WAS WELL ABOVE NORMAL FOR MUCH OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS...AND SAN ANGELO RECORDED ITS 9TH WETTEST JULY.

IN AUGUST...A HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM ALOFT WAS CLOSE ENOUGH IN PROXIMITY TO THE REGION TO HAVE THE MAIN WEATHER INFLUENCE DURING MOST OF AUGUST. SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED ON SEVERAL DAYS DURING AUGUST. ALTHOUGH PRECIPITATION WAS BELOW NORMAL ACROSS MUCH OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS FOR THE MONTH...ABILENE RECORDED ITS 10TH WETTEST AUGUST.

* AUTUMN WEATHER *

IN THE FALL...A NUMBER OF WET WEATHER EVENTS OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. IN NOVEMBER...PRECIPITATION WAS BELOW NORMAL ACROSS WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. ACROSS THE REGION... TEMPERATURES AVERAGED BELOW NORMAL IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER...

AND ABOVE NORMAL IN NOVEMBER. ABILENE RECORDED ITS 7TH COOLEST OCTOBER ON RECORD.

IN SEPTEMBER...A WET WEATHER PERIOD OCCURRED FROM THE 10TH TO 13TH. FROM SEPTEMBER 8-13...RAINFALL AMOUNTS WERE IN THE RANGE OF 3-6 INCHES ACROSS A LARGE AREA IN WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. THE WIDESPREAD COVERAGE OF THE RAINFALL DURING THIS TIME FRAME WAS BENEFICIAL TO THE REGION...BRINGING SHORT TERM RELIEF TO THE AREAS WHICH WERE EXPERIENCING DROUGHT CONDITIONS. THE WIDESPREAD COVERAGE OF CLOUDS AND PRECIPITATION HELD DAYTIME TEMPERATURES DOWN DURING THIS TIME AS WELL...WHEN HIGHS WERE IN THE 70S ACROSS MOST OF WEST CENTRAL TEXAS ON SEPTEMBER 9-11.

A FEW SEVERE STORMS OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 20-21...ALONG WITH LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL.

AFTER A PERIOD OF CONSIDERABLY COOLER TEMPERATURES WITH HIGHS IN THE 70S ON SEPTEMBER 22-24...TEMPERATURES DIPPED INTO THE MID 40S TO LOWER 50S FOR LOWS ON THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER.

A WET PERIOD OCCURRED DURING EARLY OCTOBER...WHEN SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WITH HEAVY RAIN OCCURRED ACROSS WEST CENTRAL TEXAS. HIGH TEMPERATURES WERE MUCH BELOW NORMAL IN THE 50S... ACROSS THE BIG COUNTRY AND PARTS OF THE HEARTLAND ON OCTOBER 9-11.

LOW TEMPERATURES WERE IN THE 30S ON OCTOBER 31ST...AND A LIGHT FREEZE OCCURRED AT A FEW LOCATIONS...INCLUDING SAN ANGELO.

DRY WEATHER PREVAILED IN NOVEMBER...WITH THE INFLUENCE OF SEVERAL HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEMS. ABILENE AND SAN ANGELO BOTH RECEIVED LESS THAN 0.05 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION FOR THE MONTH.

WITH THE APPROACH AND ARRIVAL OF AN UPPER LEVEL DISTURBANCE ON NOVEMBER 19-20...LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL OF 1.5 TO 3 INCHES OCCURRED IN PARTS OF SAN SABA COUNTY.

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