

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

## What a difference from last year *Rainfall surpasses yearly total*

**By Melissa Kanz and Catherine Hosman**  
Highland Lakes Newspapers

Tuesday, July 24, 2007



Years of praying for rain seem to be paying off this year in a big way. With an average annual rainfall in the Highland Lakes of 30 inches, cities across the area have already surpassed the annual average in less than eight months.

This year, Marble Falls has already seen 43.30 inches of rain and Horseshoe Bay has received 38.07 inches. Granite Shoals and Kingsland has already received 36.12 inches and 35.26 inches has fallen in Burnet. Llano has already seen 29.35 inches and Spicewood has 33.74 inches of rainfall so far this year.

**Staff photo**

This dock at Cedar Lodge was bereft of water a scant six months ago in January.

The two-year drought has just recently officially ended. "It ended in June," David Walker, Lower Colorado River Authority River Operations Center supervisor, said.

With the overwhelming rain throughout Central Texas, the lakes have certainly benefited.



**Staff photo by George Hatt**

Lake Buchanan was measured Monday at 1018.12 feet, shortly below its full elevation of 1,020.35 feet.

Lake Buchanan is expected to remain near 1018 feet, according to the LCRA; however, forecasts and operational plans may change with additional rainfall.

Although floodgates are not open at Buchanan Dam, hydroelectric generation will continue as needed to pass inflows, which continue to decrease.

Recent rains have filled Lake Buchanan in this photo taken at Cedar Lodge a few days ago.

Monday, Inks Lake was measured at 887.55 feet, less than a foot below its full elevation of 888.22 feet.

Inks Dam, and hydroelectric generation releases will vary as needed to pass inflows, which remain below levels that would require flood operations.

According to LCRA, there is no water flowing over the spillway at

Inks Lake is expected to remain within its normal operating range, which could change depending on additional rainfall.

Lake LBJ was measured 824.65 feet Monday, less than six inches below the lake's full elevation of 825 feet.

The lake is expected to remain within its normal operating range, with changes depending on additional rainfall.

Floodgates are not open at Wirtz Dam; however, hydroelectric generation releases will vary as needed to pass inflows, which have increased slightly due to recent rains.

Measured at 736.54 feet Monday, Lake Marble Falls is less than two feet below its full elevation of 738 feet.

Lake Marble Falls is within its normal operating range at Starcke Dam. Currently no floodgates are open; however, there is a possibility of one floodgate opening to assist in passing inflows, which remain below levels that require flood operations, in place of one hydroelectric unit that is out of service.

The chance of rain this week will remain less than 30 percent with temperatures in the low 90s, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

With 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms Tuesday, the high is expected to be near 92 degrees and the low around 71 degrees, with calm winds from the south-southeast between 5-10 mph, according to NWS.

Wednesday there is a 30 percent chance of rain, with a high near 90 degrees and a low near 70 degrees, NWS said. Winds from the south are expected to be between 5-10 mph.

According to NWS, there is a 30 percent chance of rain Thursday, with the expected high to be near 90 degrees and a low near 73. Winds from the south are predicted to be between 5-10 mph.